

## RAJA BHOJA

Amidst the many wars he fought, Raja Bhoja (11th Century A.D.), the ruler of Malwa, always found time to listen to the poetry of the gifted. Ballala, a poet in his court, has immortalised his patron in his work *Bhoja Prabandha* which is a romantic tale, written in Sanskrit, partly in verse and partly in prose. Ballala was interested not so much in history as in heroics. In his attempt to magnify Bhoja as a patron of the arts and letters, Ballala has ignored historical facts. The poets, Kalidasa and Bana, who he said adorned Bhoja's court, actually lived much before Bhoja's times.

### OTHER ACK BRAVEHEARTS:

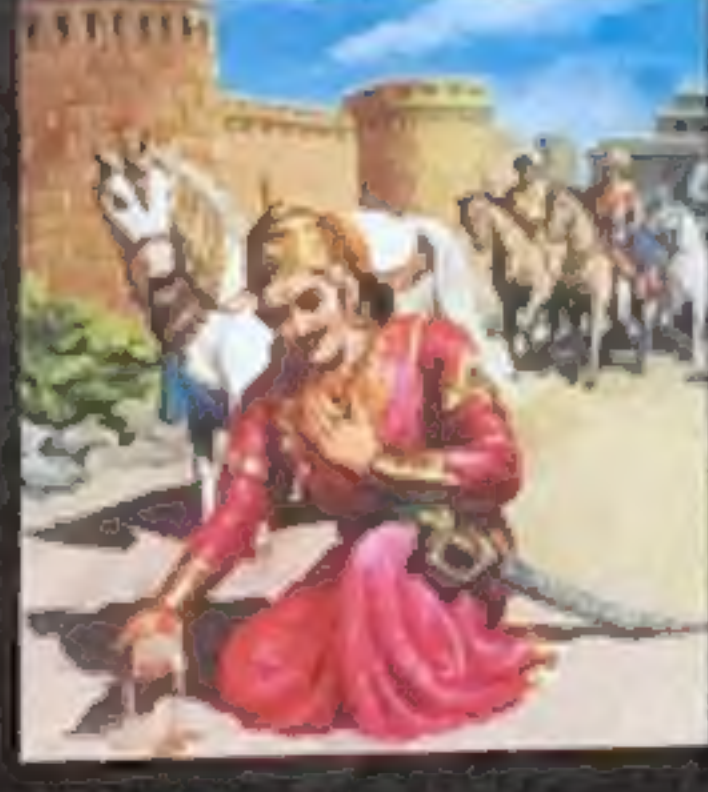
VIKRAMADITYA



SHALIVAHANA



VEER HAMMIR

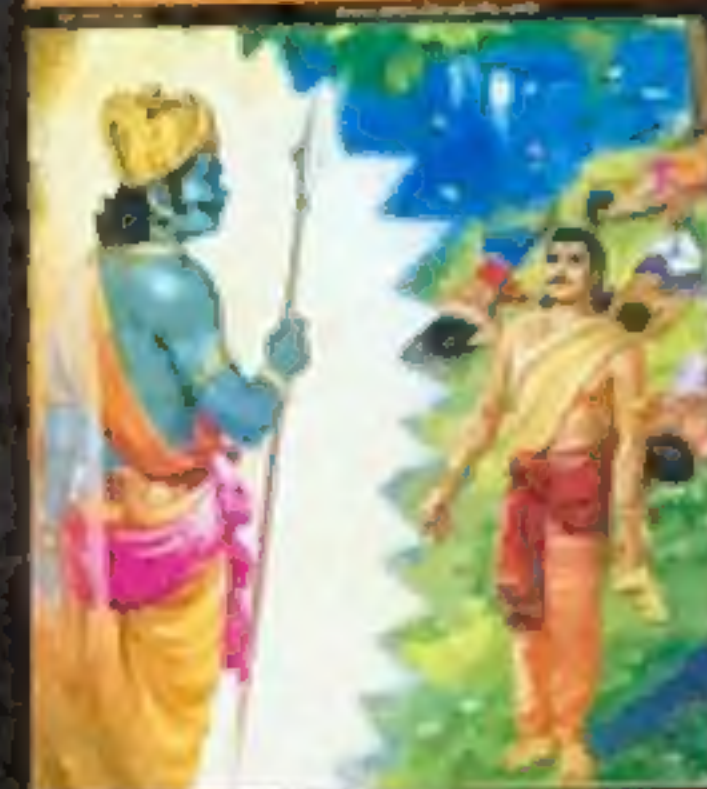


TALES OF SHIVAJI



### ALSO LOOK FOR:

TALES OF YUDHISHTHIRA



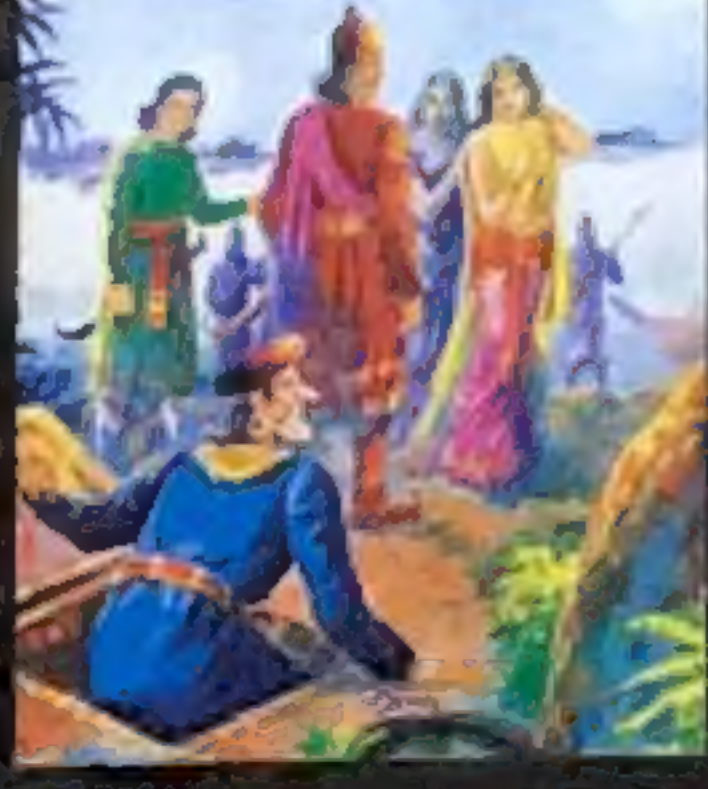
EPICS & MYTHOLOGY

DEVI CHOUDHURANI



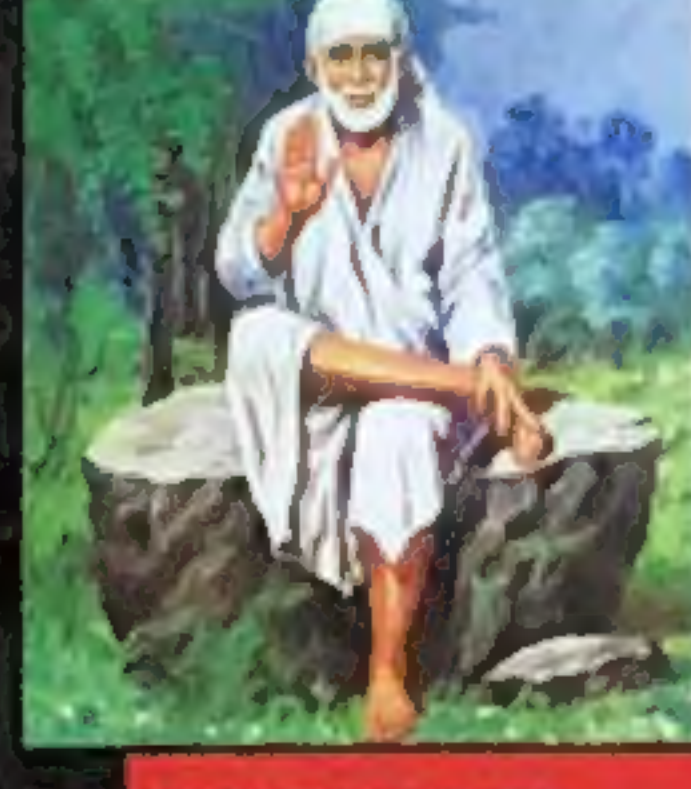
INDIAN CLASSICS

THE DEADLY FEAST



FABLES & HUMOUR

TALES OF SAI BABA



VISIONARIES

Buy online at [www.amarchitrakatha.com](http://www.amarchitrakatha.com)

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

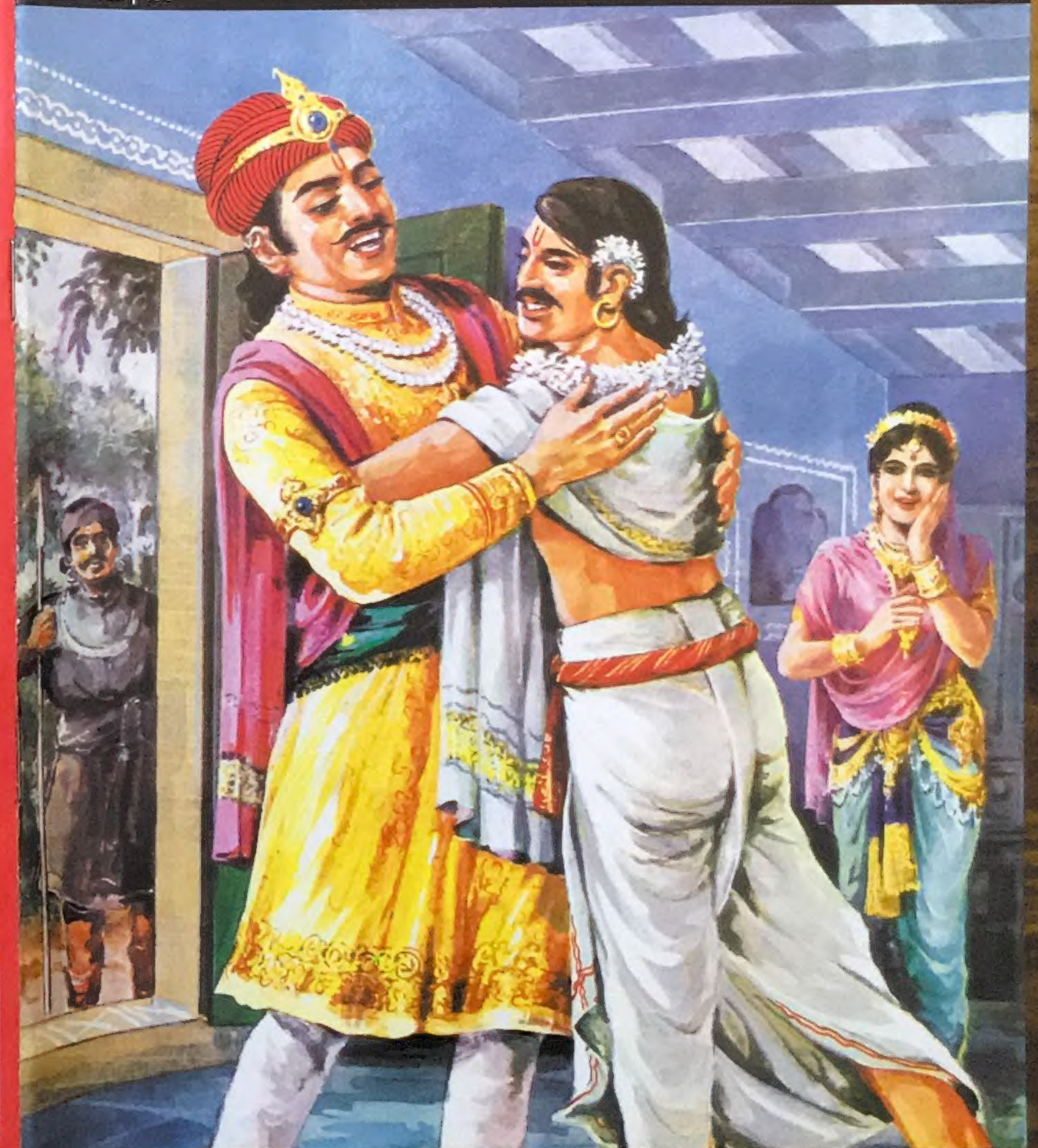
BRAVEHEARTS



# RAJA BHOJA

A PATRON OF THE ARTS AND LITERATURE

Vol 596 | ₹50



ISBN 81-8482-049-6



9 788184 820492



# RAJA BHOJA

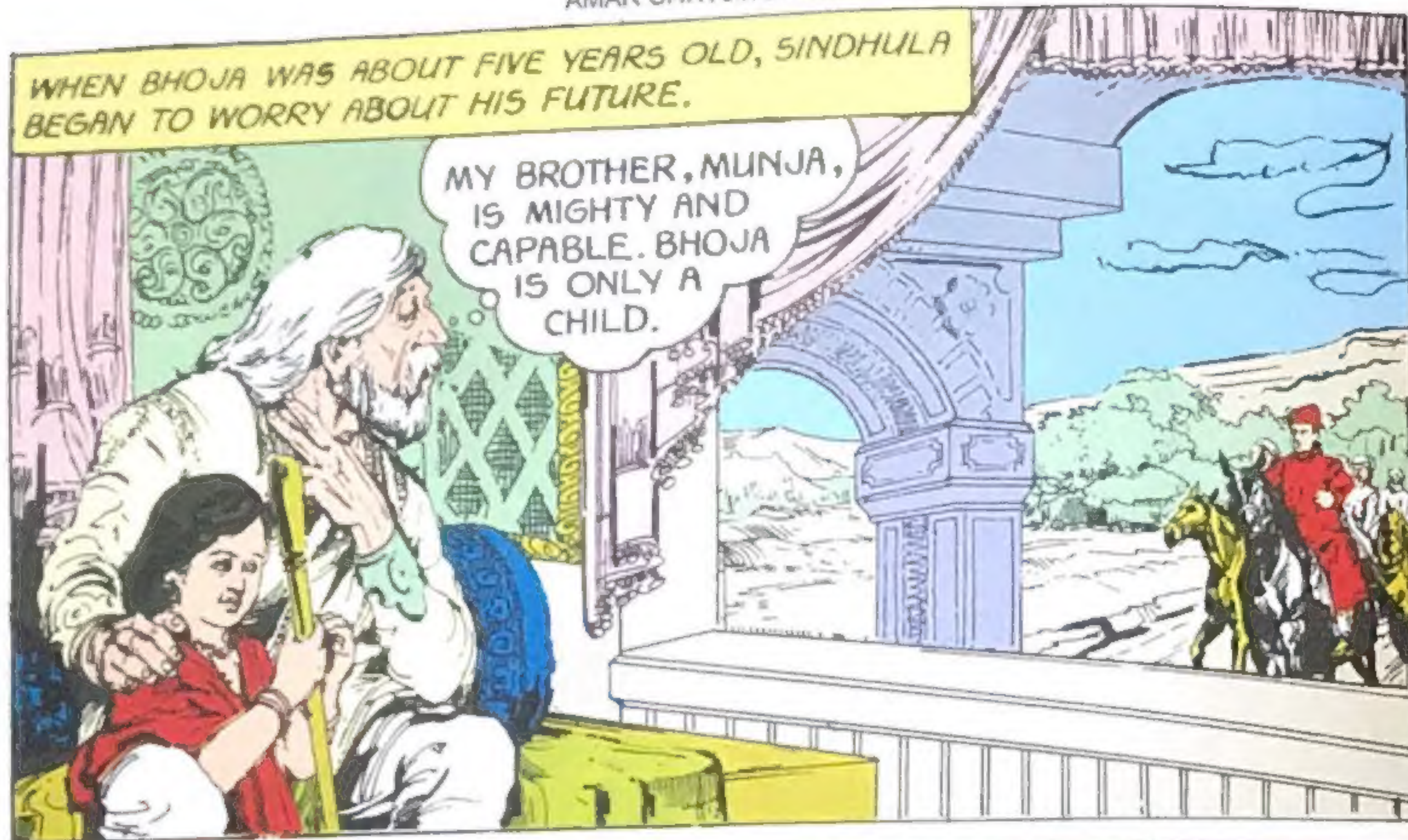


RAJA BHOJA WAS THE SON OF KING SINDHULA OF DHARA.\*  
HE WAS BORN WHEN SINDHULA WAS VERY OLD.

\* IN MADHYA PRADESH.



WHEN BHOJA WAS ABOUT FIVE YEARS OLD, SINDHULA BEGAN TO WORRY ABOUT HIS FUTURE.

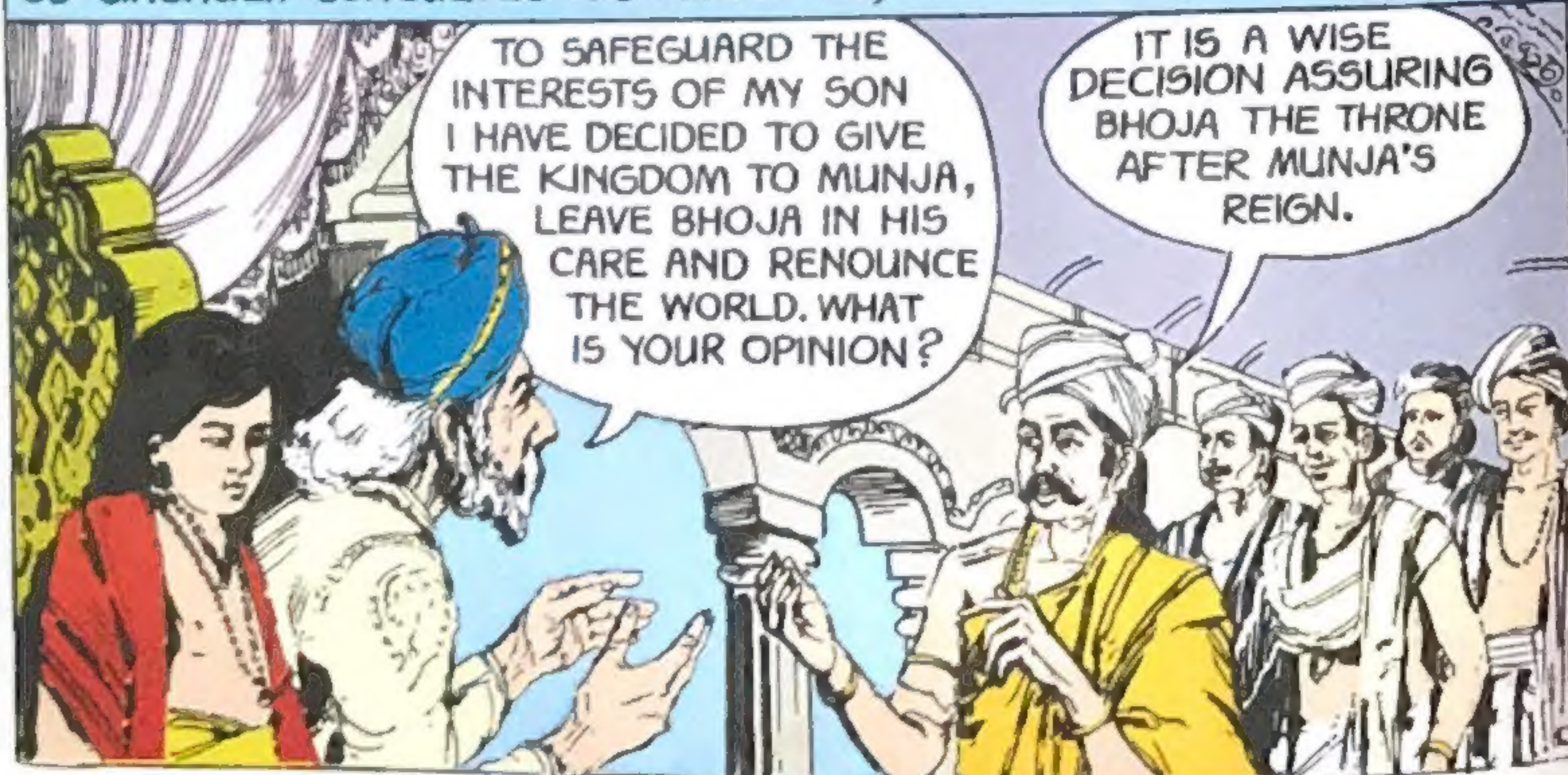


MY BROTHER, MUNJA, IS MIGHTY AND CAPABLE. BHOJA IS ONLY A CHILD.



IF I IGNORE MUNJA AND PLACE BHOJA ON THE THRONE, HE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO KILL BHOJA FOR THE KINGDOM.

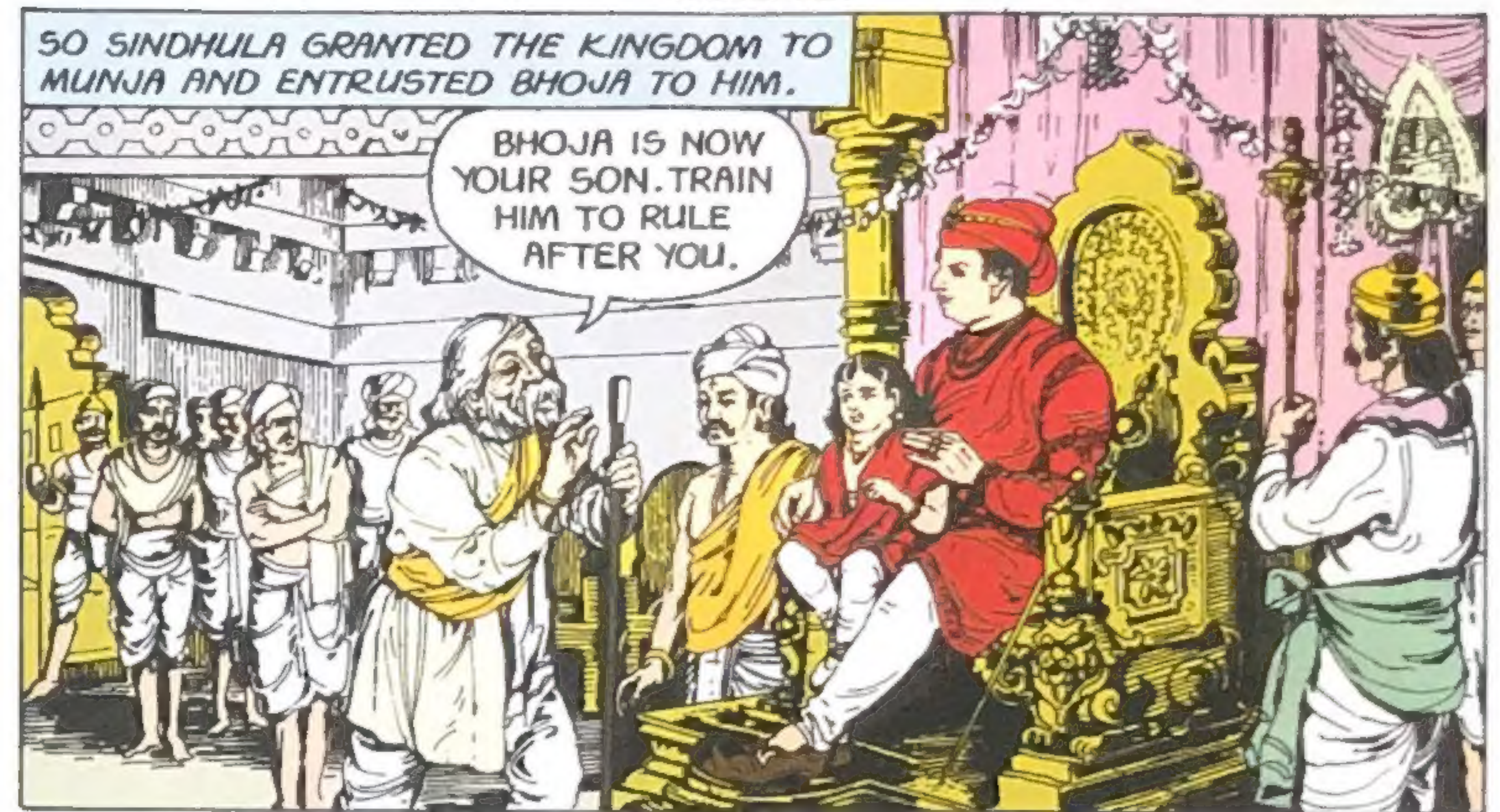
SO SINDHULA CONSULTED HIS MINISTERS, HEADED BY BUDDHISAGARA.



TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF MY SON I HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE THE KINGDOM TO MUNJA, LEAVE BHOJA IN HIS CARE AND RENOUNCE THE WORLD. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

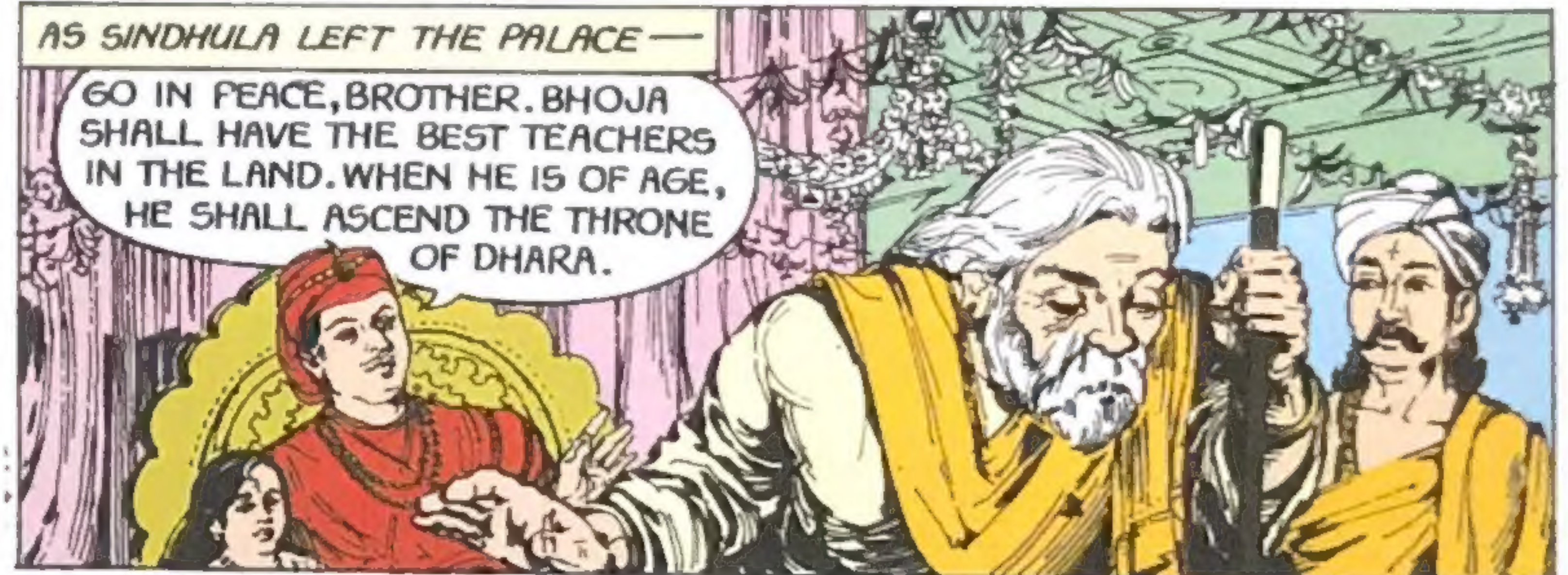
IT IS A WISE DECISION ASSURING BHOJA THE THRONE AFTER MUNJA'S REIGN.

SO SINDHULA GRANTED THE KINGDOM TO MUNJA AND ENTRUSTED BHOJA TO HIM.



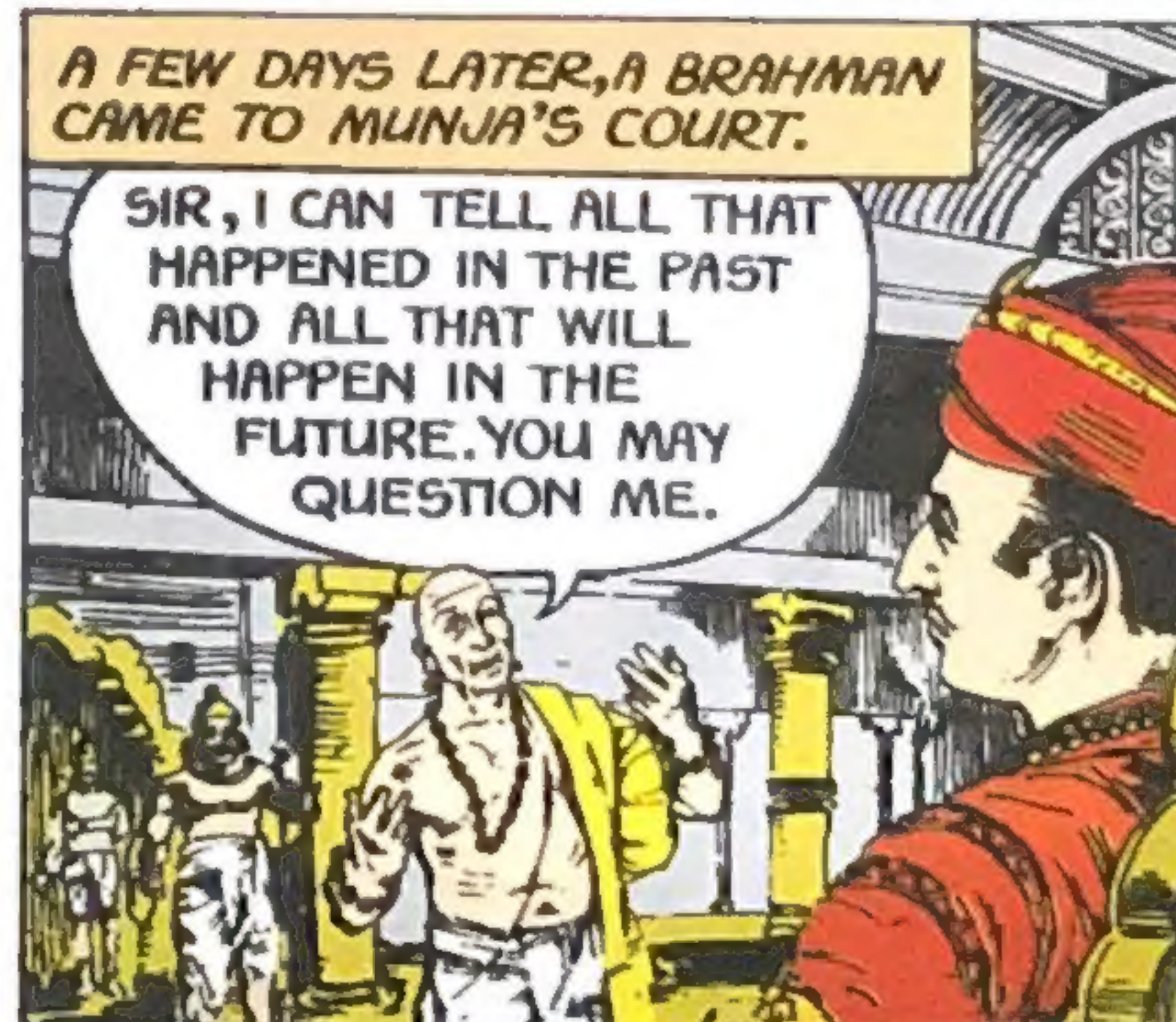
BHOJA IS NOW YOUR SON. TRAIN HIM TO RULE AFTER YOU.

AS SINDHULA LEFT THE PALACE —



GO IN PEACE, BROTHER. BHOJA SHALL HAVE THE BEST TEACHERS IN THE LAND. WHEN HE IS OF AGE, HE SHALL ASCEND THE THRONE OF DHARA.

A FEW DAYS LATER, A BRAHMAN CAME TO MUNJA'S COURT.



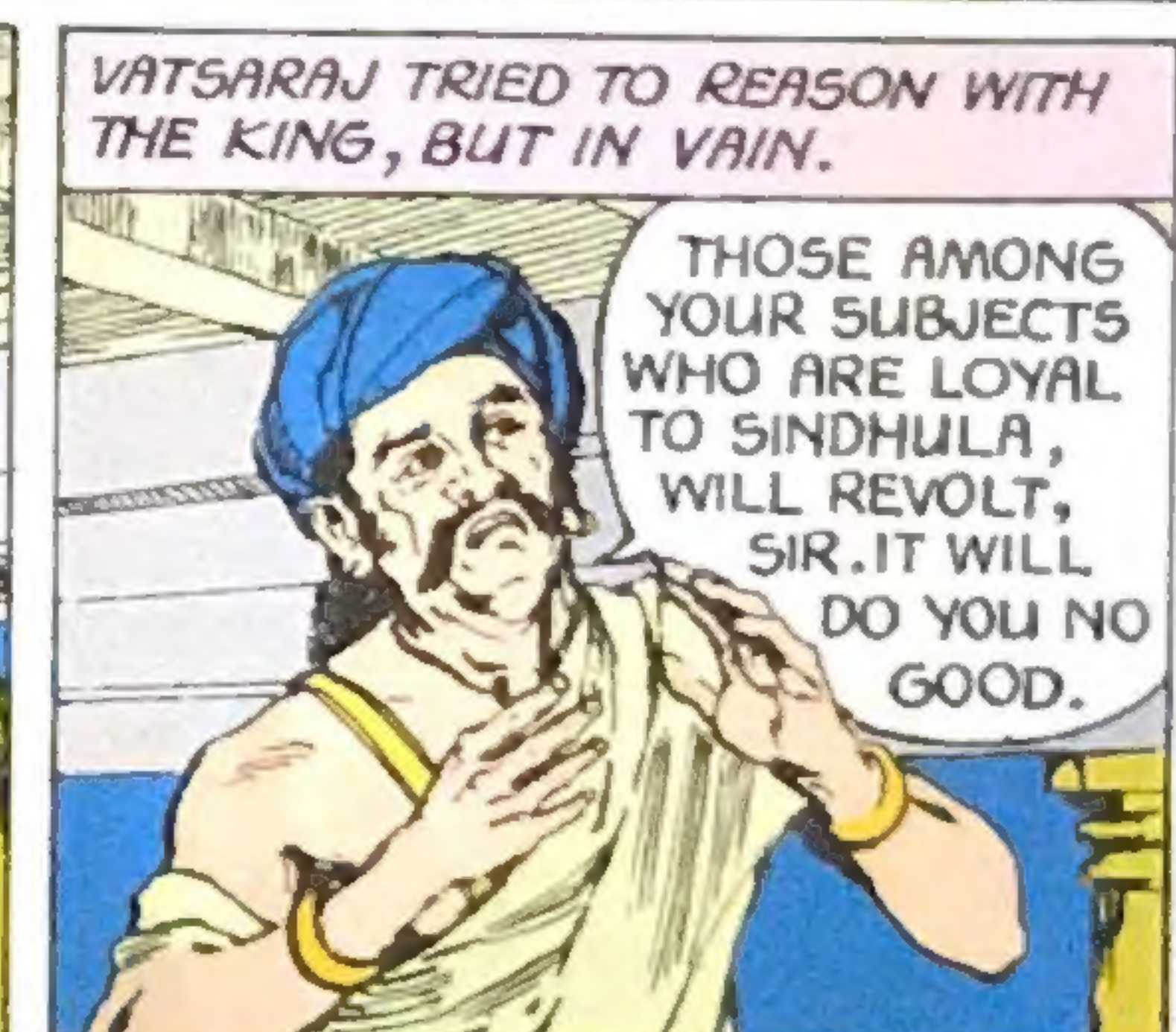
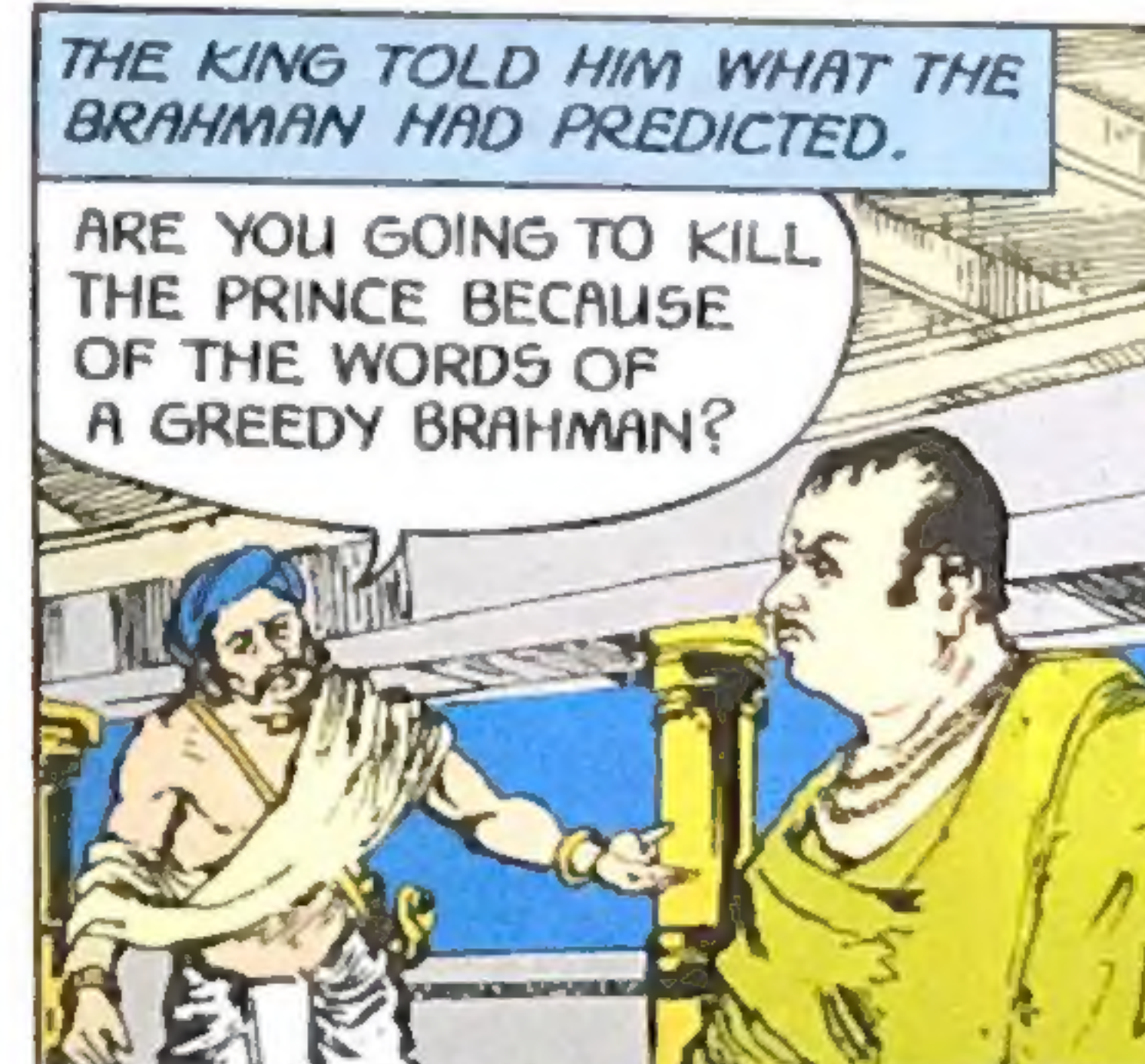
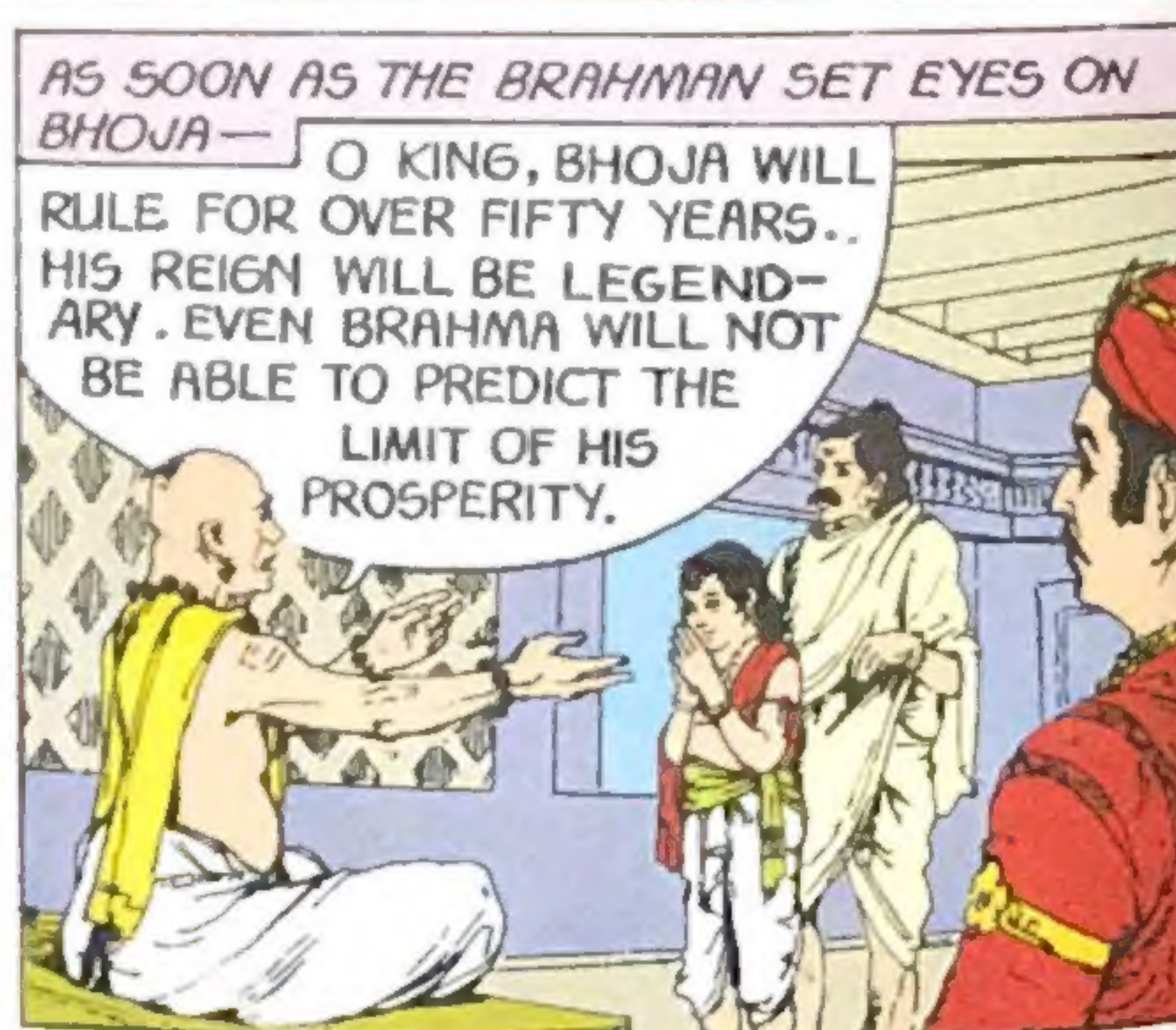
SIR, I CAN TELL ALL THAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST AND ALL THAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE. YOU MAY QUESTION ME.

MUNJA WAS AMAZED AT THE BRAHMAN'S CONCEIT.

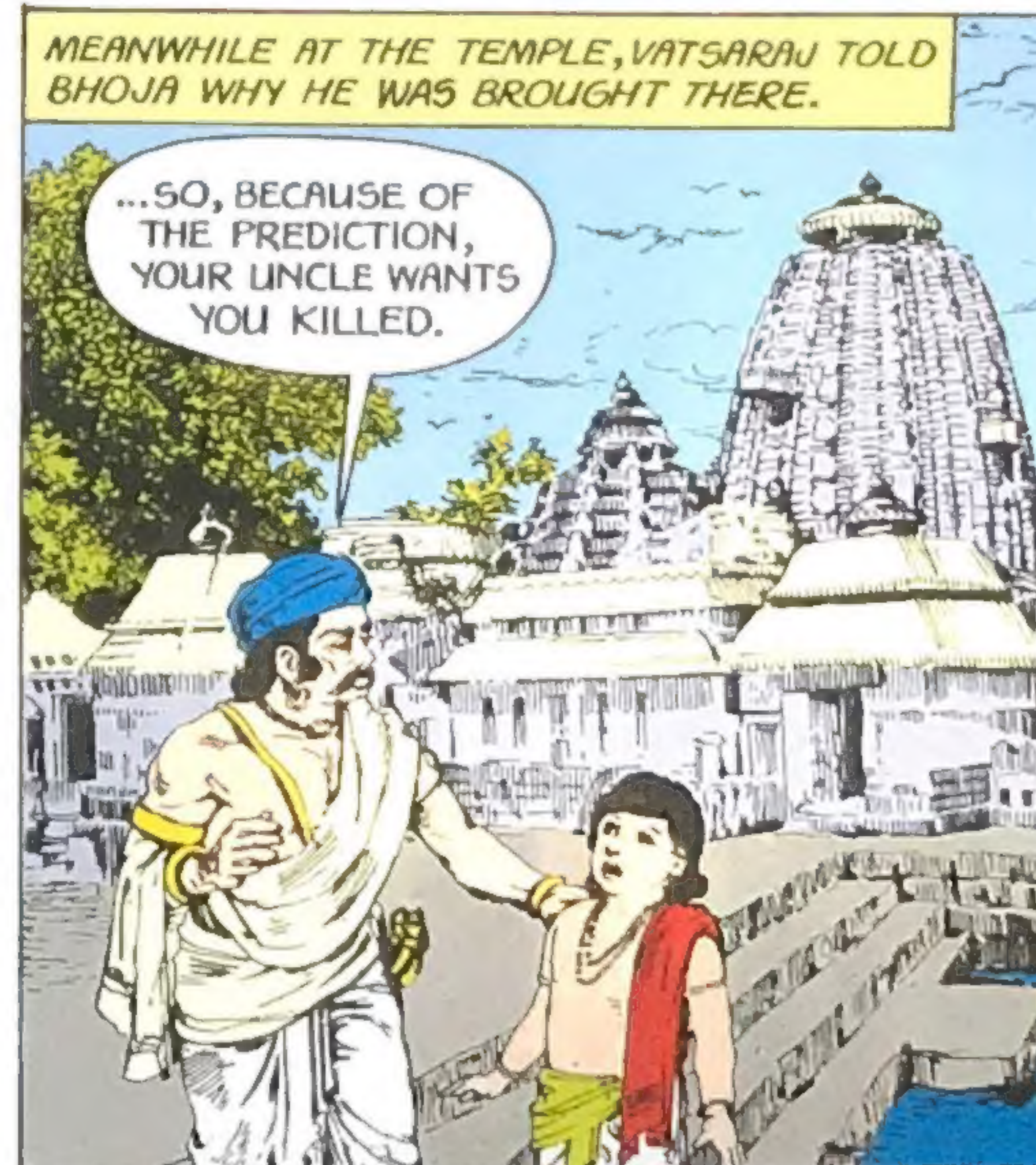
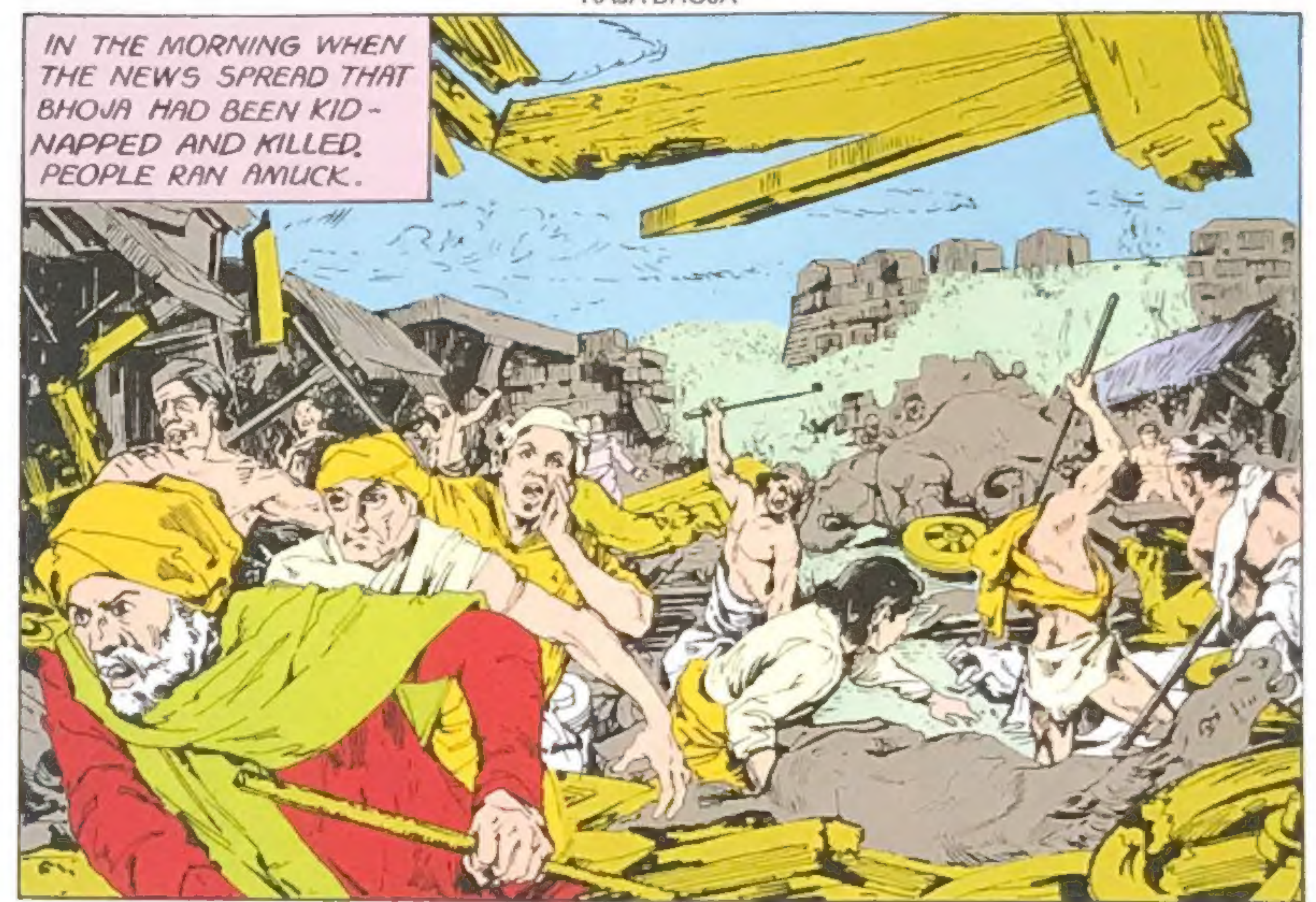
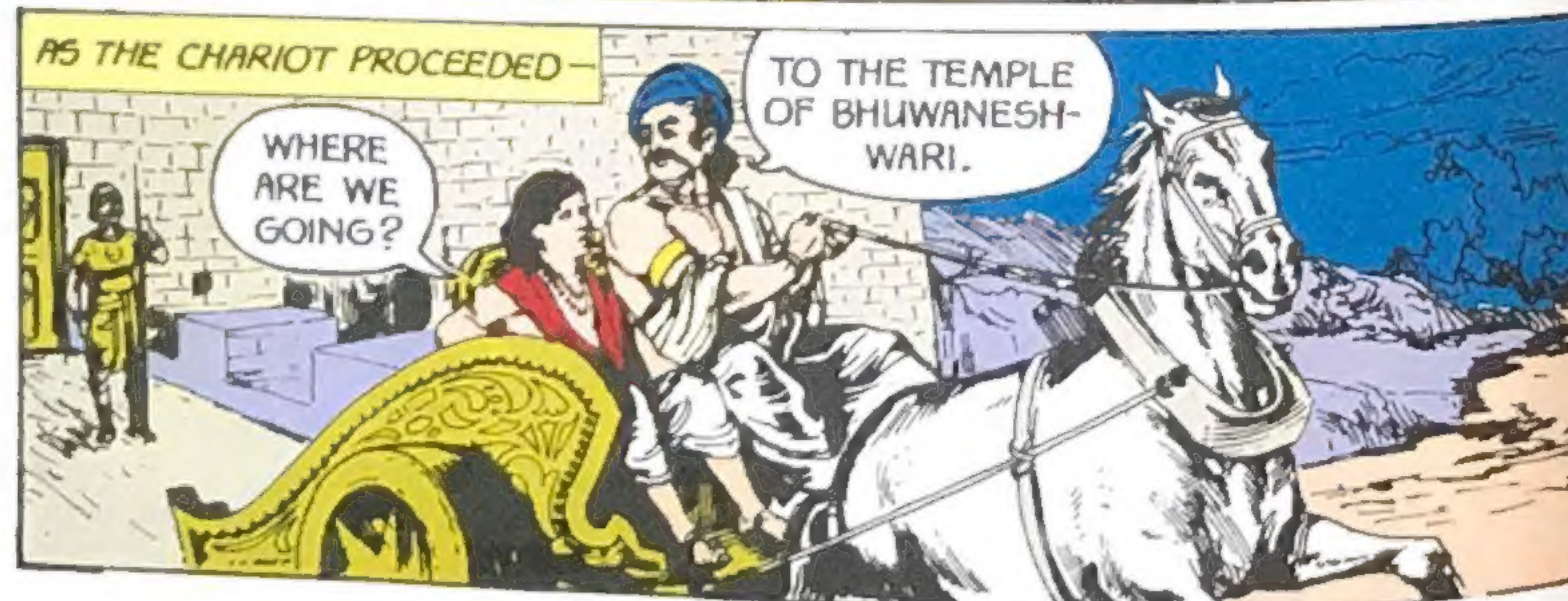
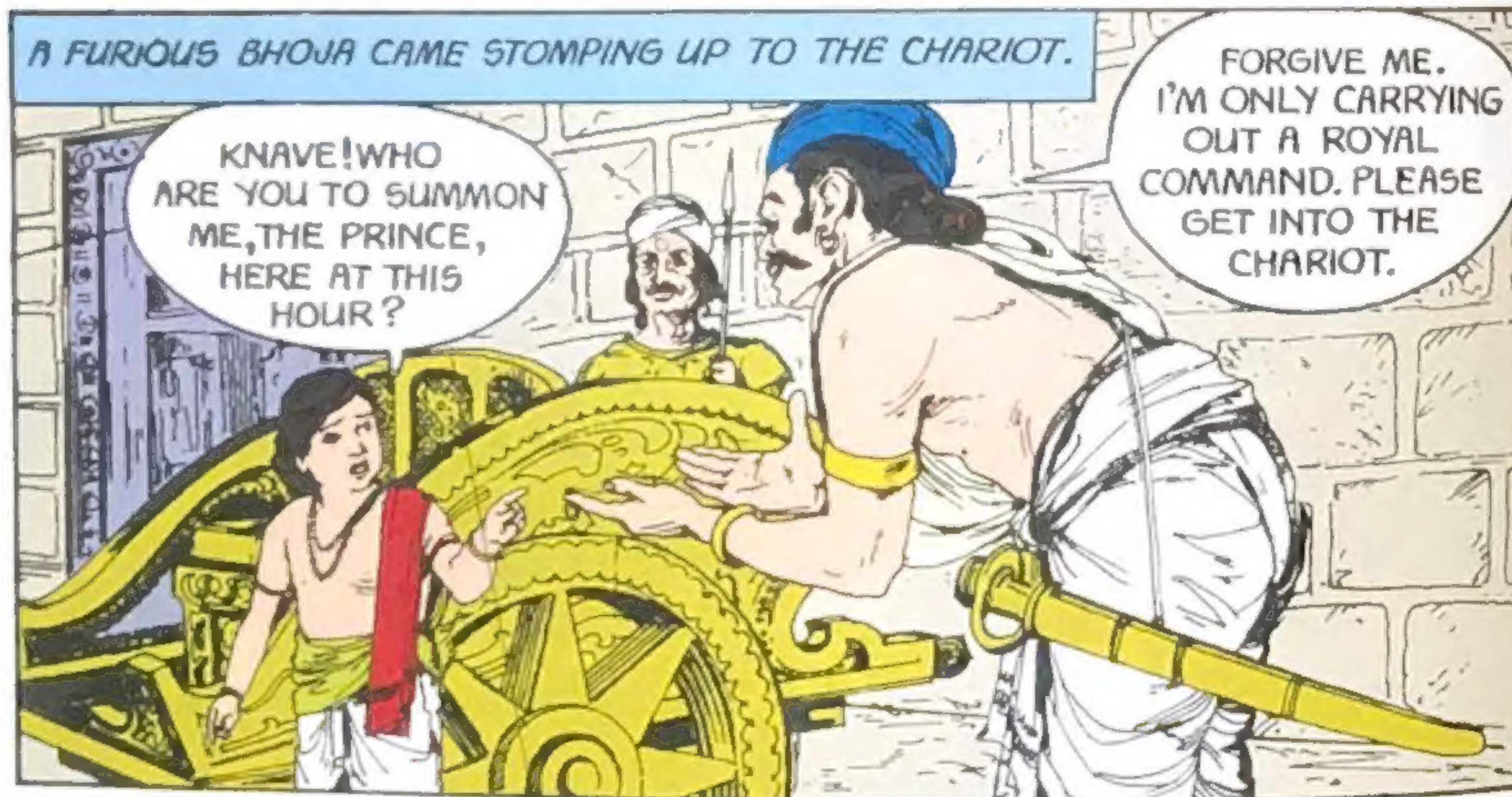
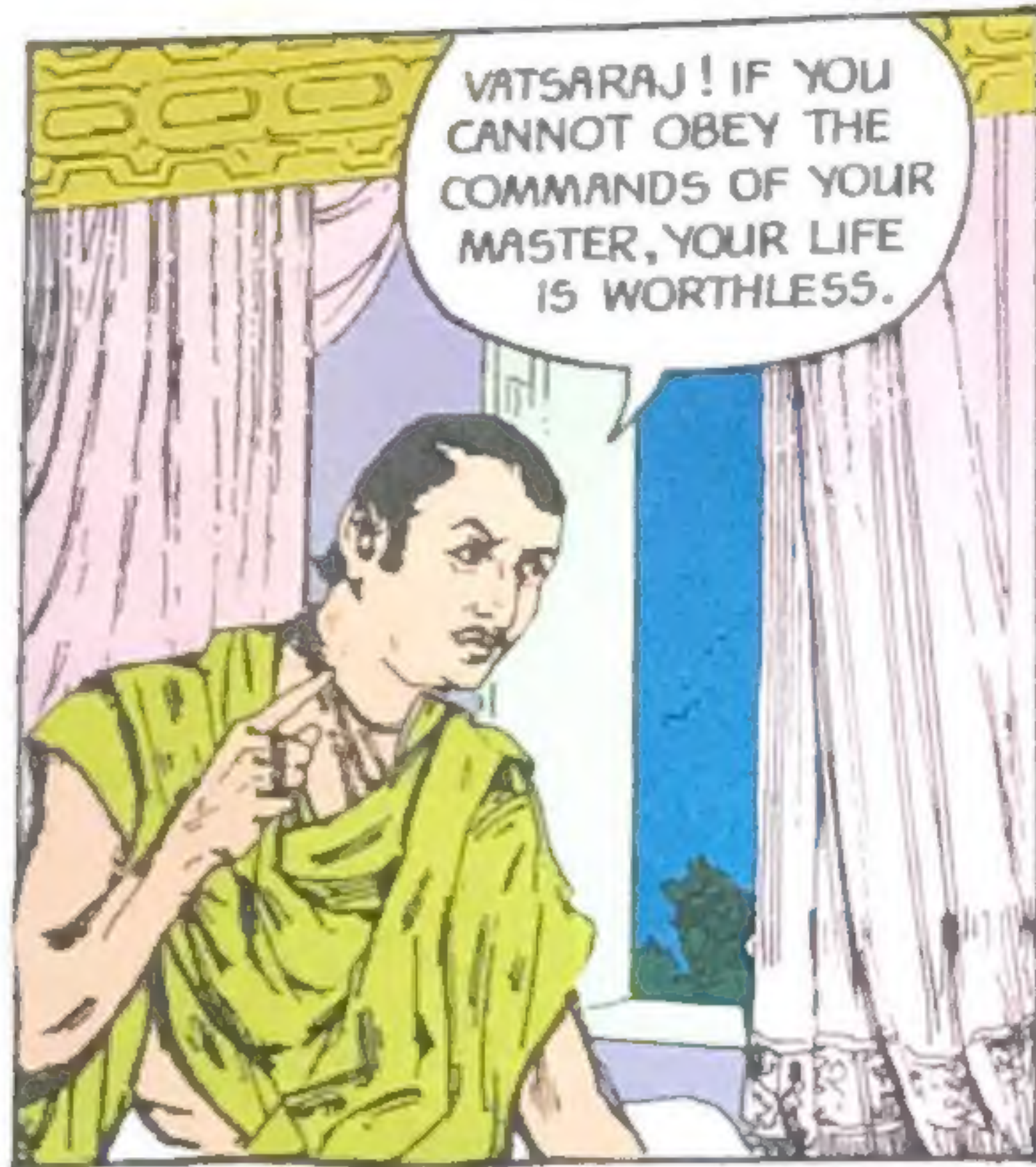


THEN TELL ME EVERY SINGLE THING I DID FROM THE DAY I WAS BORN TILL THIS MOMENT.

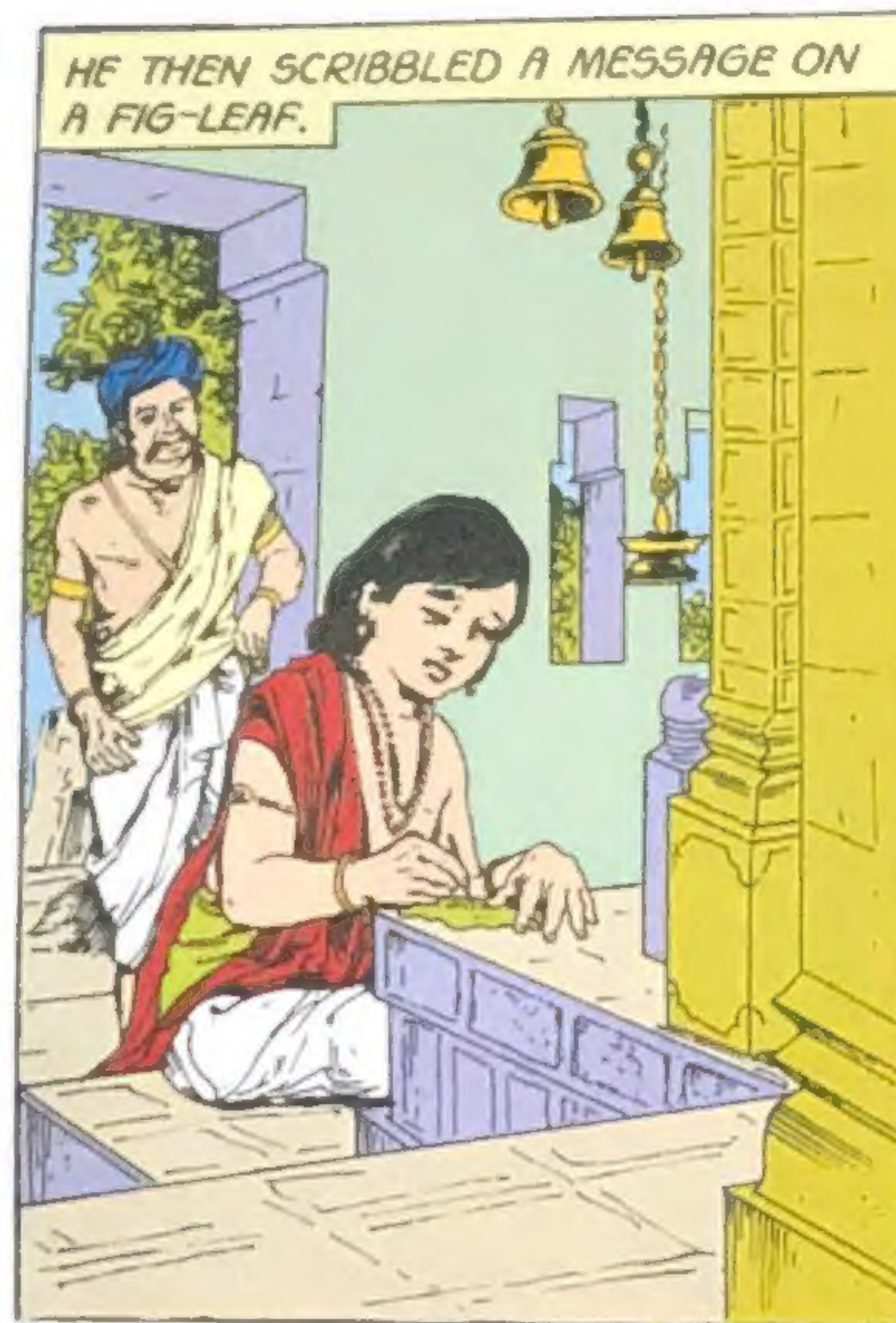








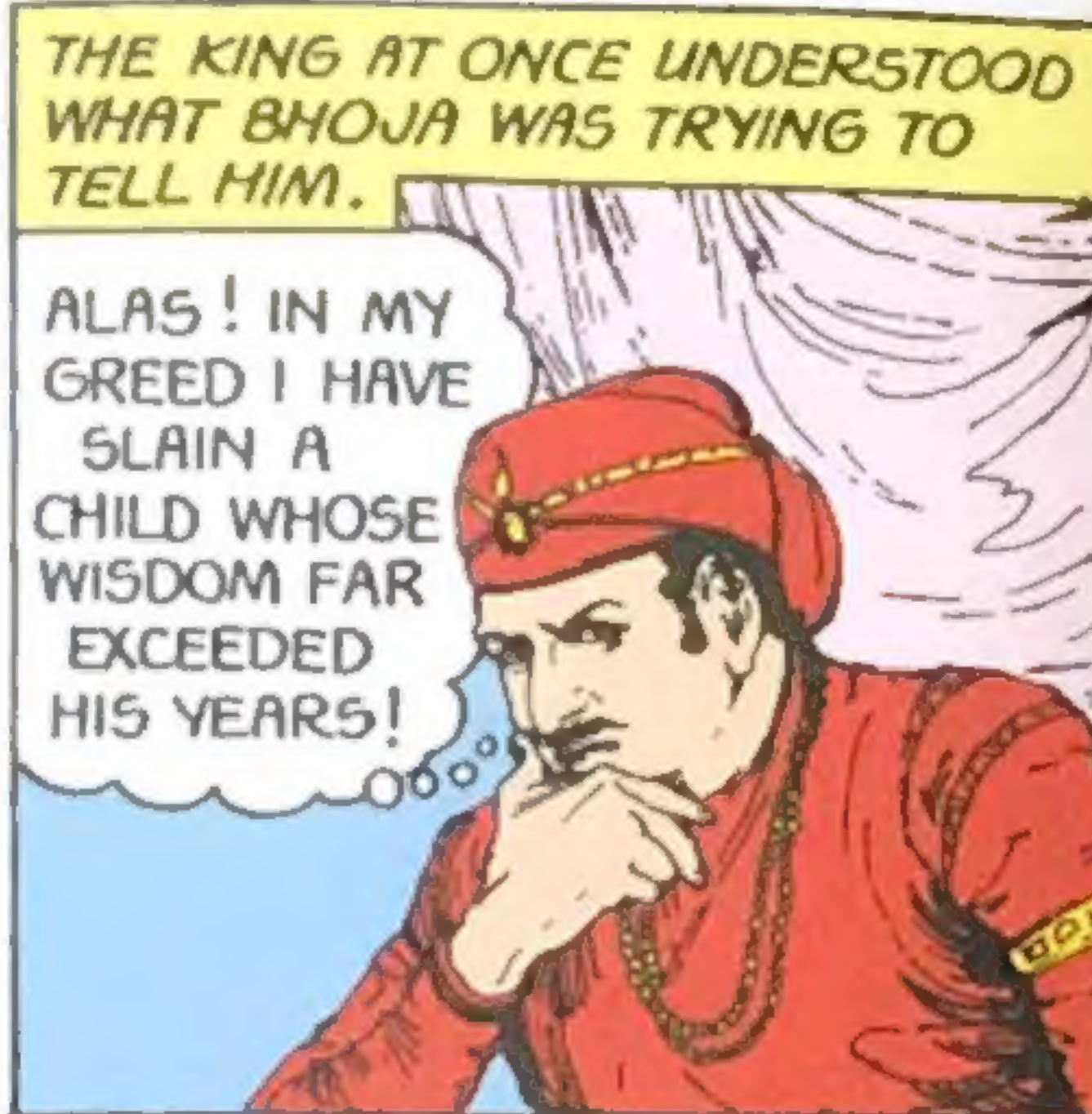








GREAT KINGS LIKE RAMA AND YUDHISHTHIRA HAVE GONE TO HEAVEN. BUT BHOOMIDEVI DID NOT GO WITH A SINGLE ONE OF THEM. WILL SHE GO WITH YOU, O MUNJA?

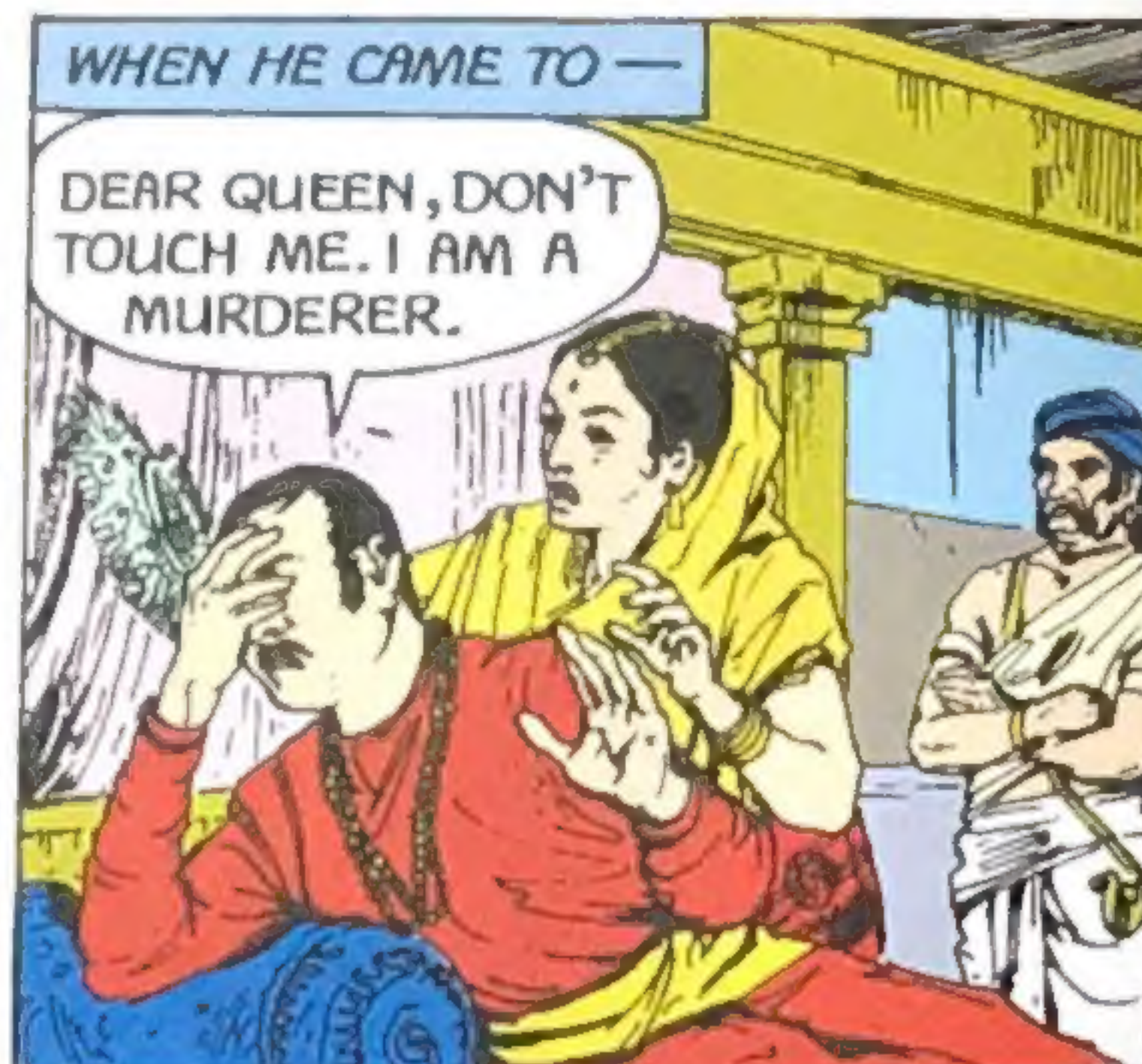


THE KING AT ONCE UNDERSTOOD WHAT BHOJA WAS TRYING TO TELL HIM.

ALAS! IN MY GREED I HAVE SLAIN A CHILD WHOSE WISDOM FAR EXCEEDED HIS YEARS!

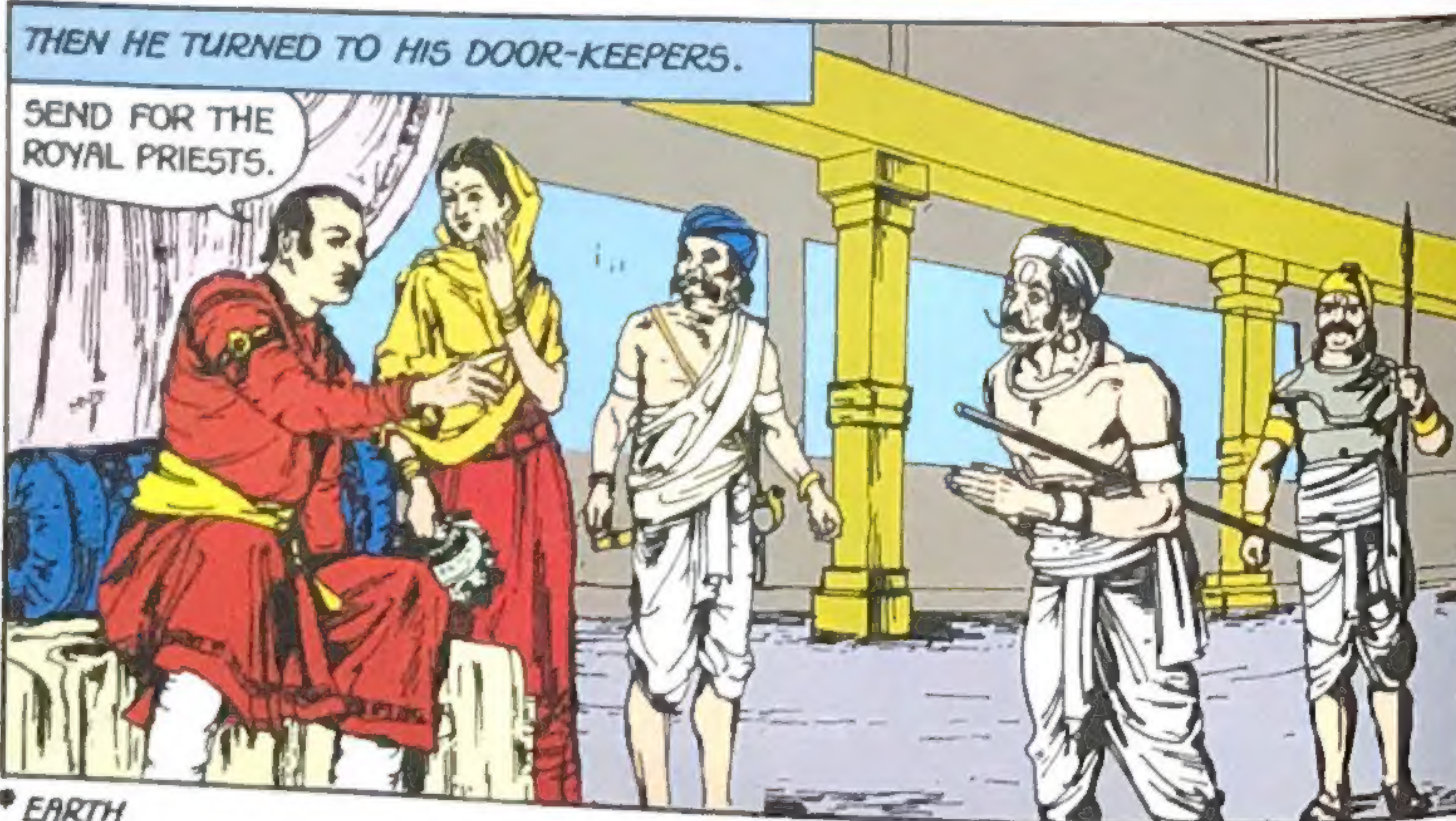


SO FULL OF REMORSE WAS HE THAT HE FAINTED.



WHEN HE CAME TO —

DEAR QUEEN, DON'T TOUCH ME. I AM A MURDERER.



THEN HE TURNED TO HIS DOOR-KEEPERS.

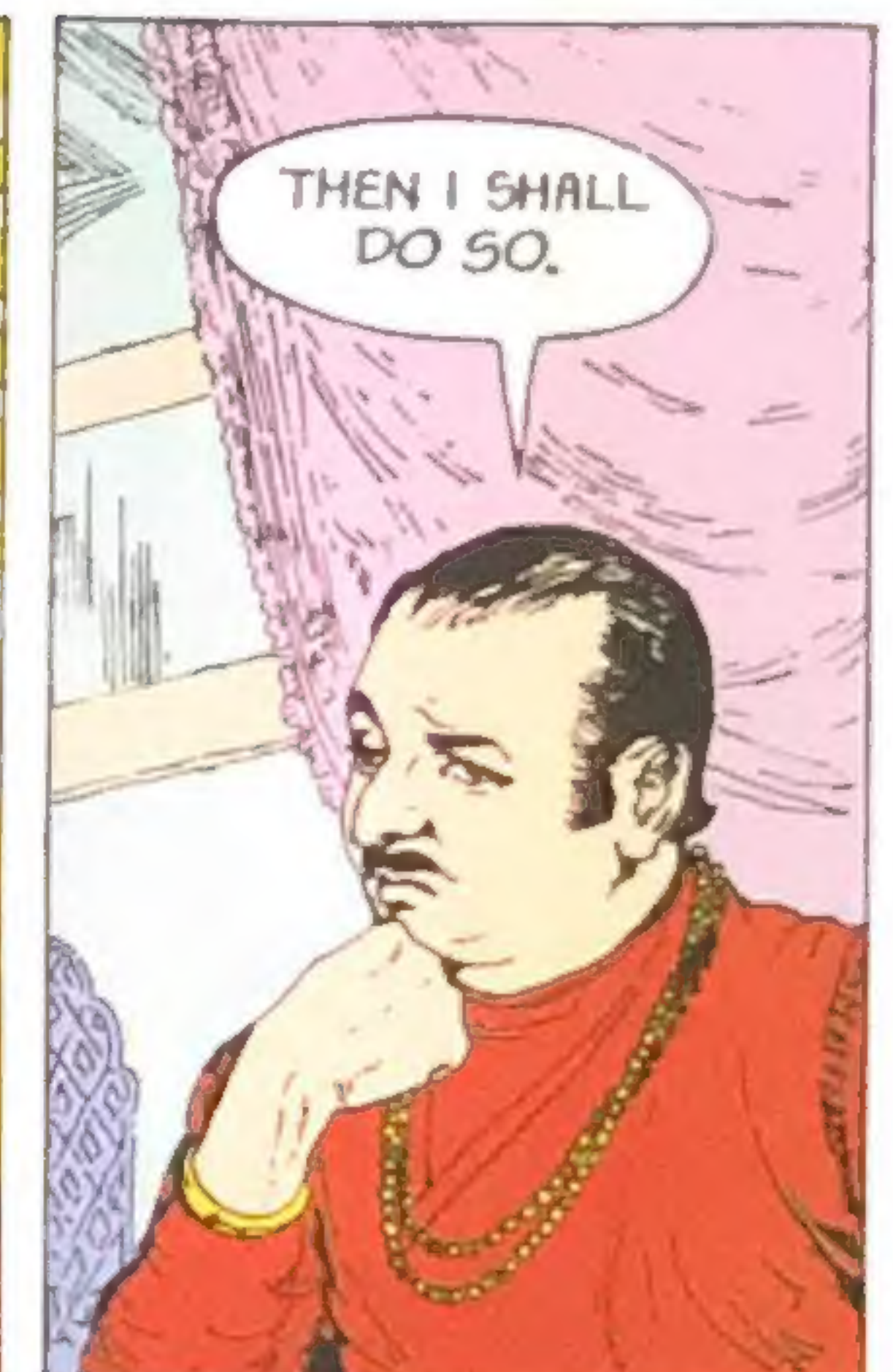
SEND FOR THE ROYAL PRIESTS.



THE PRIESTS CAME ACCOMPANIED BY BUDDHISAGARA.

I HAVE MURDERED THE PRINCE. HOW CAN I EXPIATE THE SIN?

YOU WILL HAVE TO DIE BY ENTERING THE FIRE!



THEN I SHALL DO SO.



AT THAT MOMENT, VATSARAJ TOOK BUDDHISAGARA ASIDE.

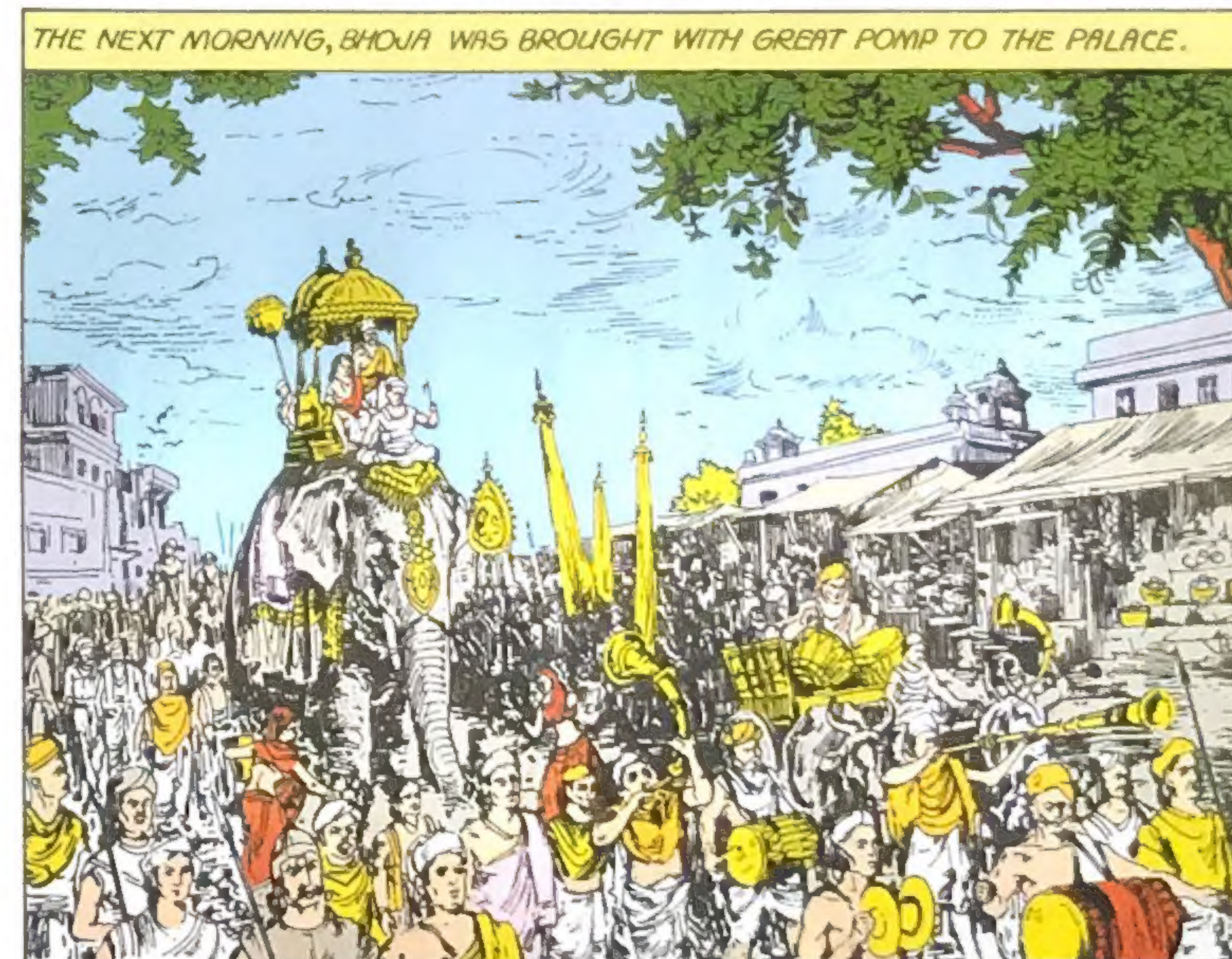
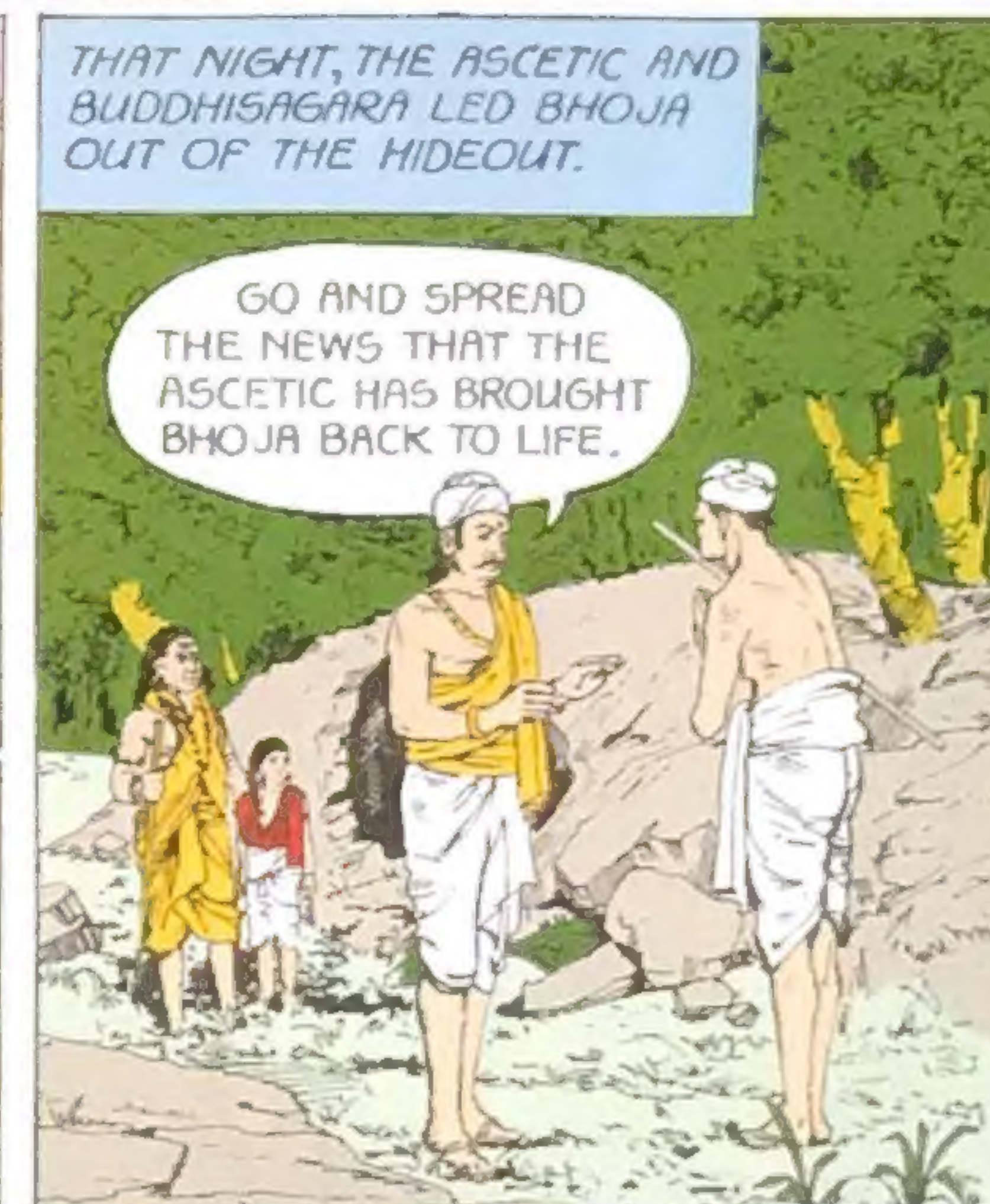
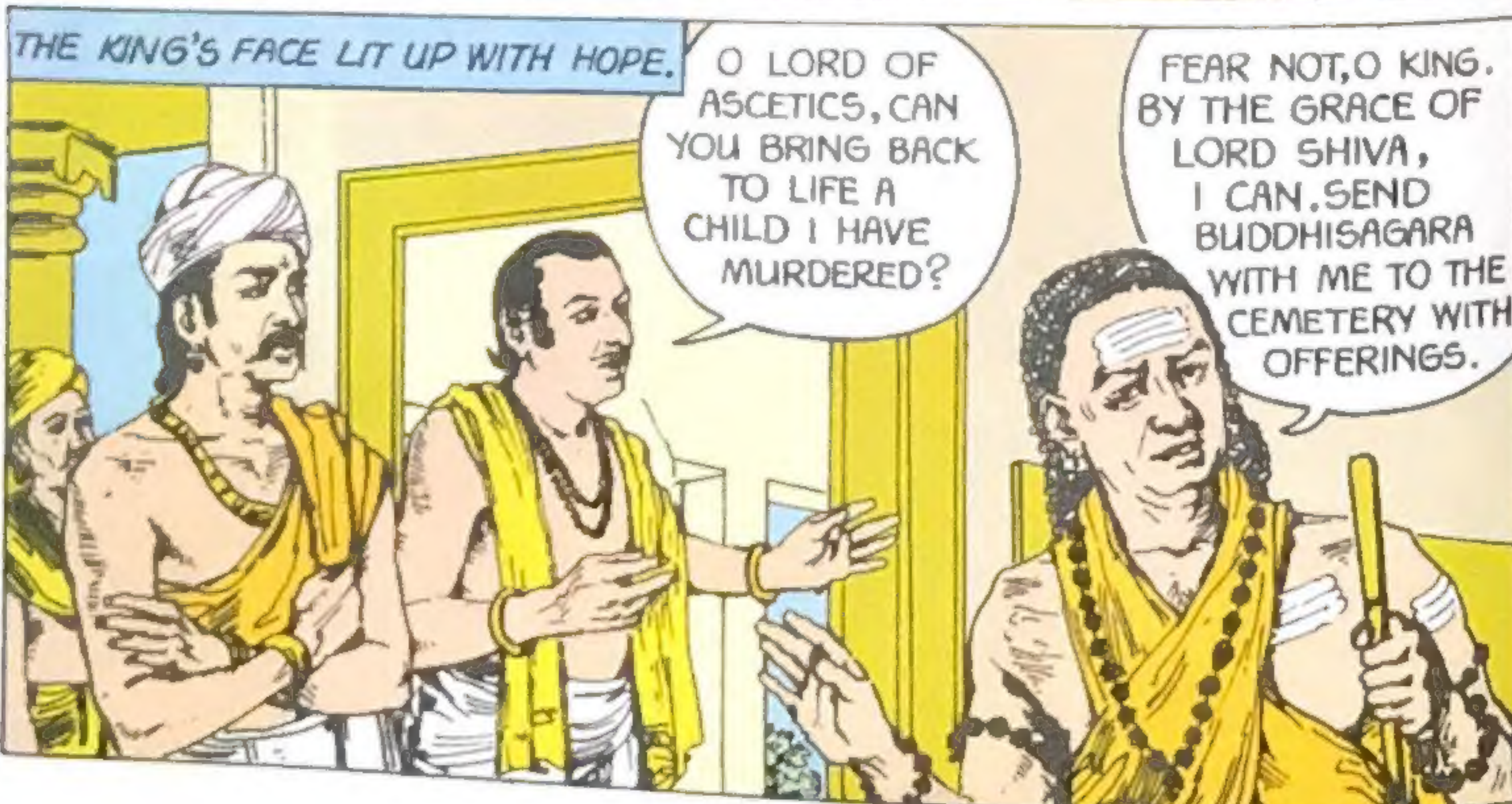
SIR, BHOJA IS NOT DEAD. I HAVE LEFT HIM SAFE IN A SECRET HIDEOUT.

IS THAT SO? THEN DO AS I TELL YOU.



AND BUDDHISAGARA WHISPERED SOMETHING INTO VATSARAJ'S EARS.





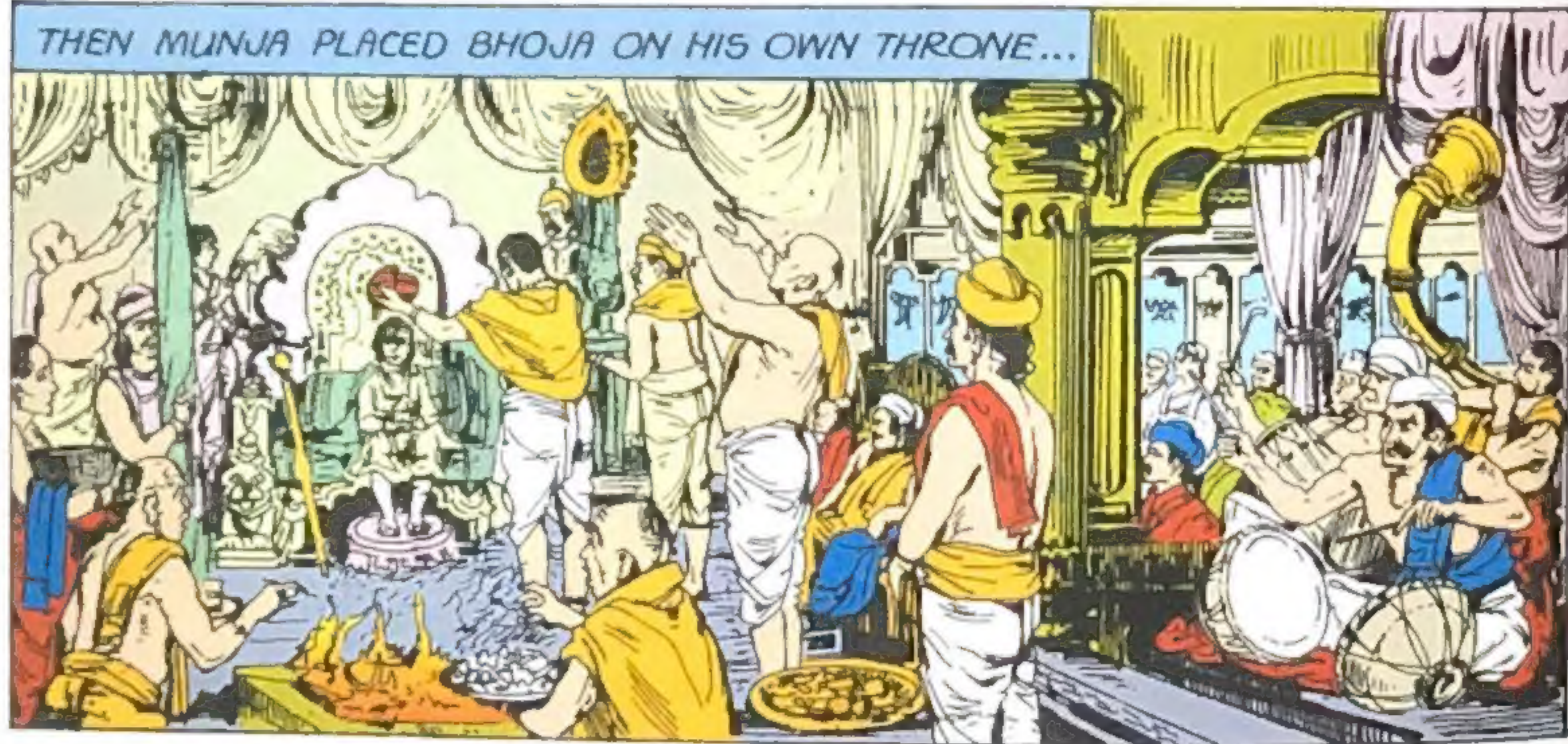


AS SOON AS HE REACHED THE PALACE, MUNJA EMBRACED HIM AND WEPT.

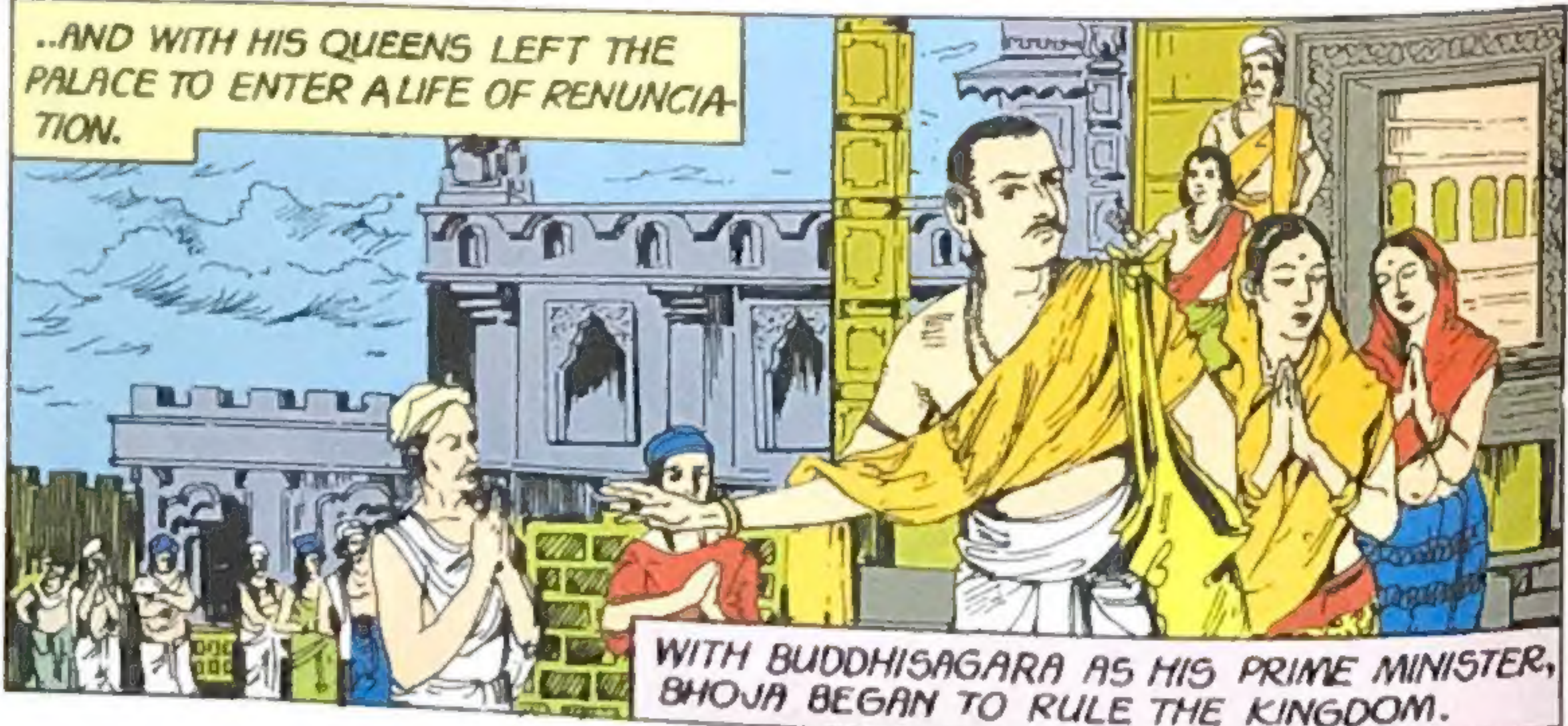


DO NOT CRY, DEAR UNCLE. YOU HAVE ACTED MAGNANIMOUSLY.

THEN MUNJA PLACED BHOJA ON HIS OWN THRONE...



..AND WITH HIS QUEENS LEFT THE PALACE TO ENTER A LIFE OF RENUNCIATION.



WITH BUDDHISAGARA AS HIS PRIME MINISTER, BHOJA BEGAN TO RULE THE KINGDOM.

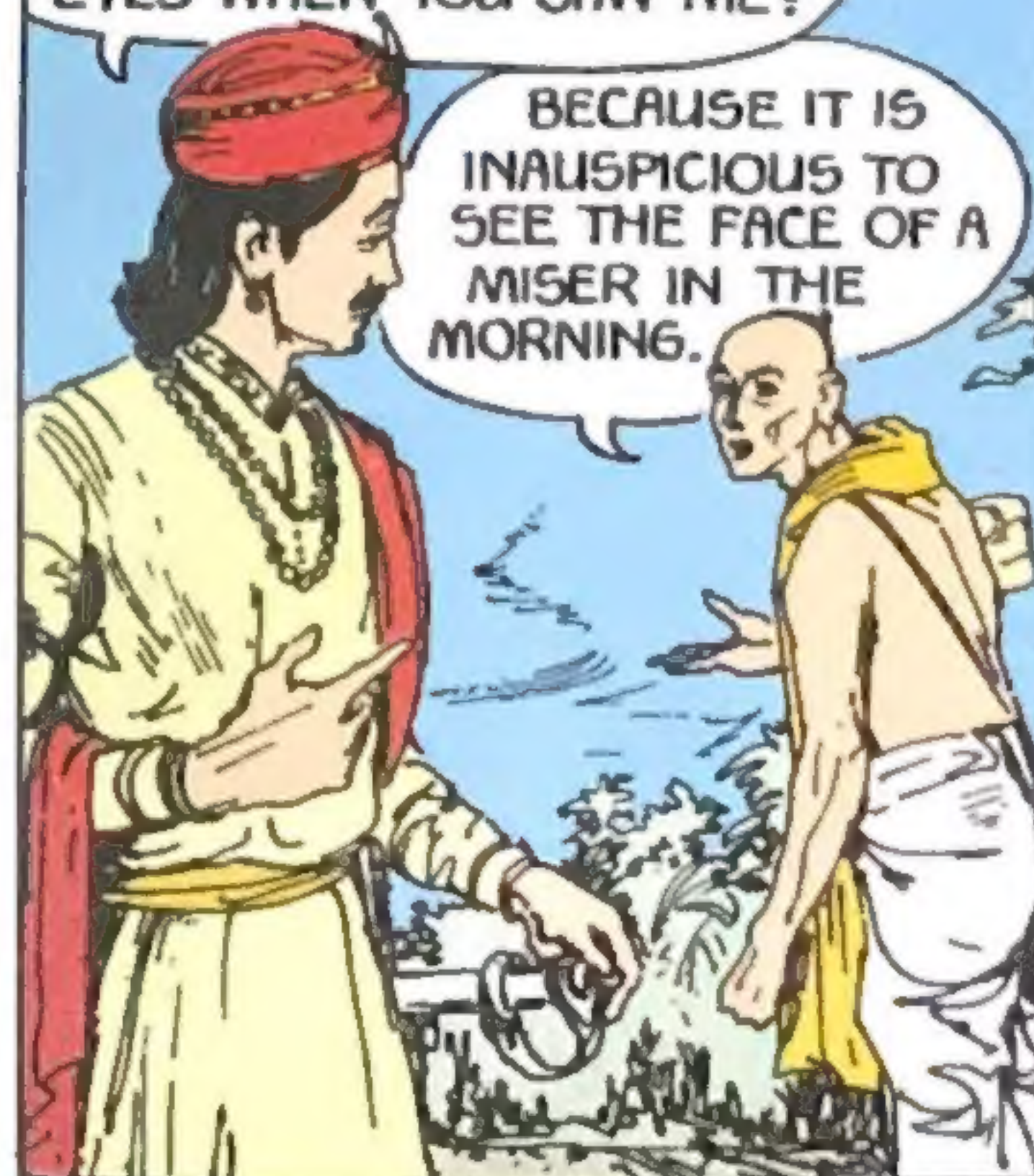
RAJA BHOJA SOON GREW UP INTO A STRONG YOUNG MAN. ONE DAY—



HE IGNORES ME AS IF I WERE A COMMONER.

HE DECIDED TO QUESTION THE BRAHMAN.

WHY DID YOU DELIBERATELY CLOSE YOUR EYES WHEN YOU SAW ME?



BECAUSE IT IS INAUSPICIOUS TO SEE THE FACE OF A MISER IN THE MORNING.

RAJA BHOJA WAS TAKEN ABACK, BUT HE ALLOWED THE BRAHMAN TO CONTINUE.

THE HUMAN BODY BEING MORTAL, IT IS ONLY THE GLORY OF KINGS THAT LIVES AFTER THEM. GENEROSITY IS THE GREATEST QUALITY OF A GLORIOUS KING. SINCE YOU ARE NOT GENEROUS I SEE NO POINT IN ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR ROYALTY.





THE KING WAS IMPRESSED.

THE WORLD IS FULL OF FLATTERERS. A FEARLESS, HONEST MAN IS HARD TO FIND. I MUST HAVE MEN LIKE HIM ABOUT ME IN MY COURT.

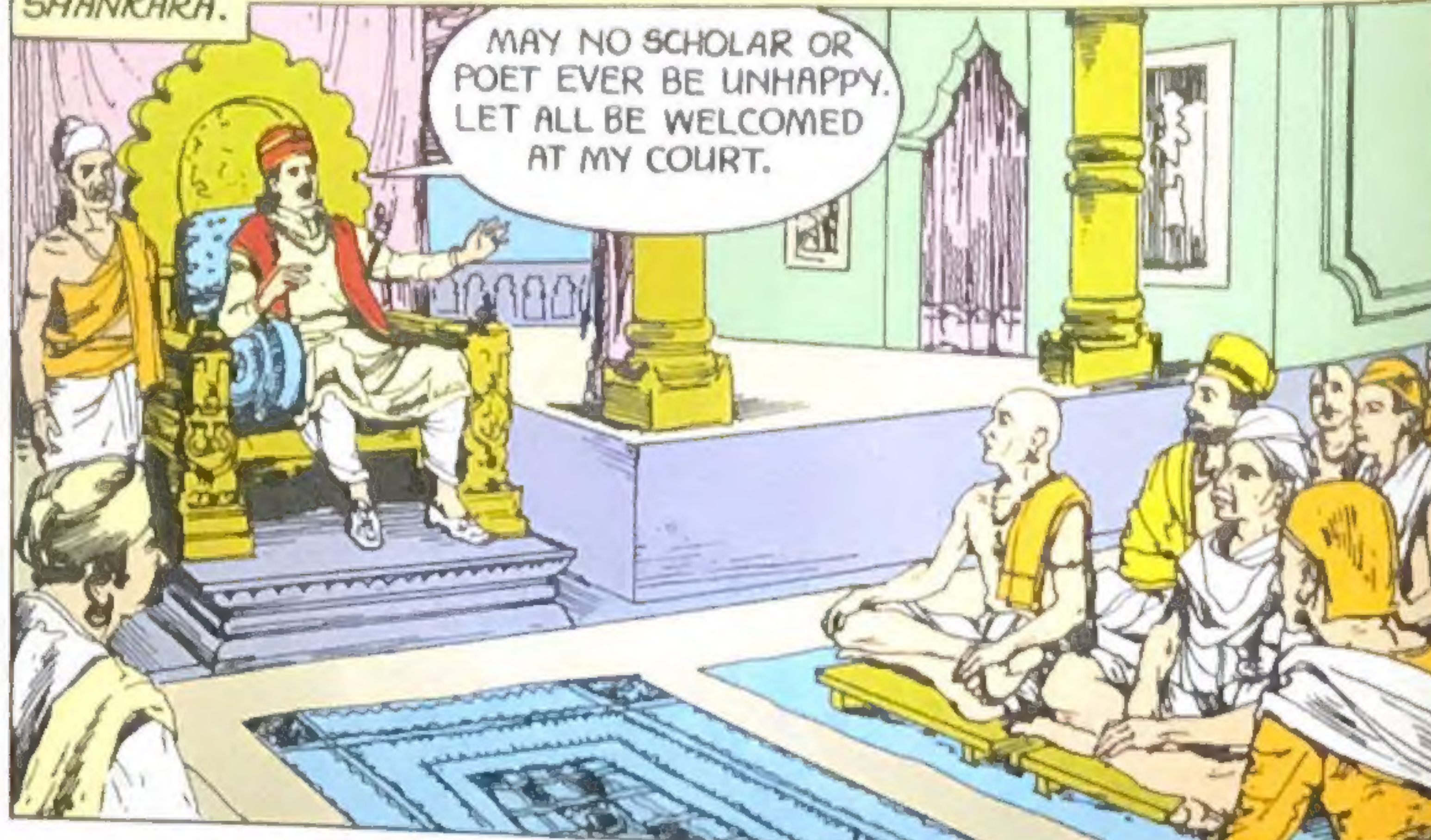


O BRAHMAN, YOU SHALL BE REWARDED FOR OPENING MY EYES. AND YOU MUST COME TO MY COURT EVERY DAY.



AND FROM THAT DAY, RAJA BHOJA WAS LAVISH IN HIS GIFTS, PARTICULARLY TO THE LEARNED.

WORD SOON SPREAD ABOUT RAJA BHOJA'S UNEQUALLED GENEROSITY AND MAGNANIMITY. POETS, SCHOLARS AND SAVANTS FLOCKED TO HIS COURT. AMONG THEM WERE SUCH RENOWNED PERSONS AS VARARUCHI, BANA, MAYURA AND SHANKARA.



MAY NO SCHOLAR OR POET EVER BE UNHAPPY. LET ALL BE WELCOMED AT MY COURT.

ONE DAY AT DUSK, A NEW POET ARRIVED AT THE COURT. HIS NAME WAS KALIDASA.

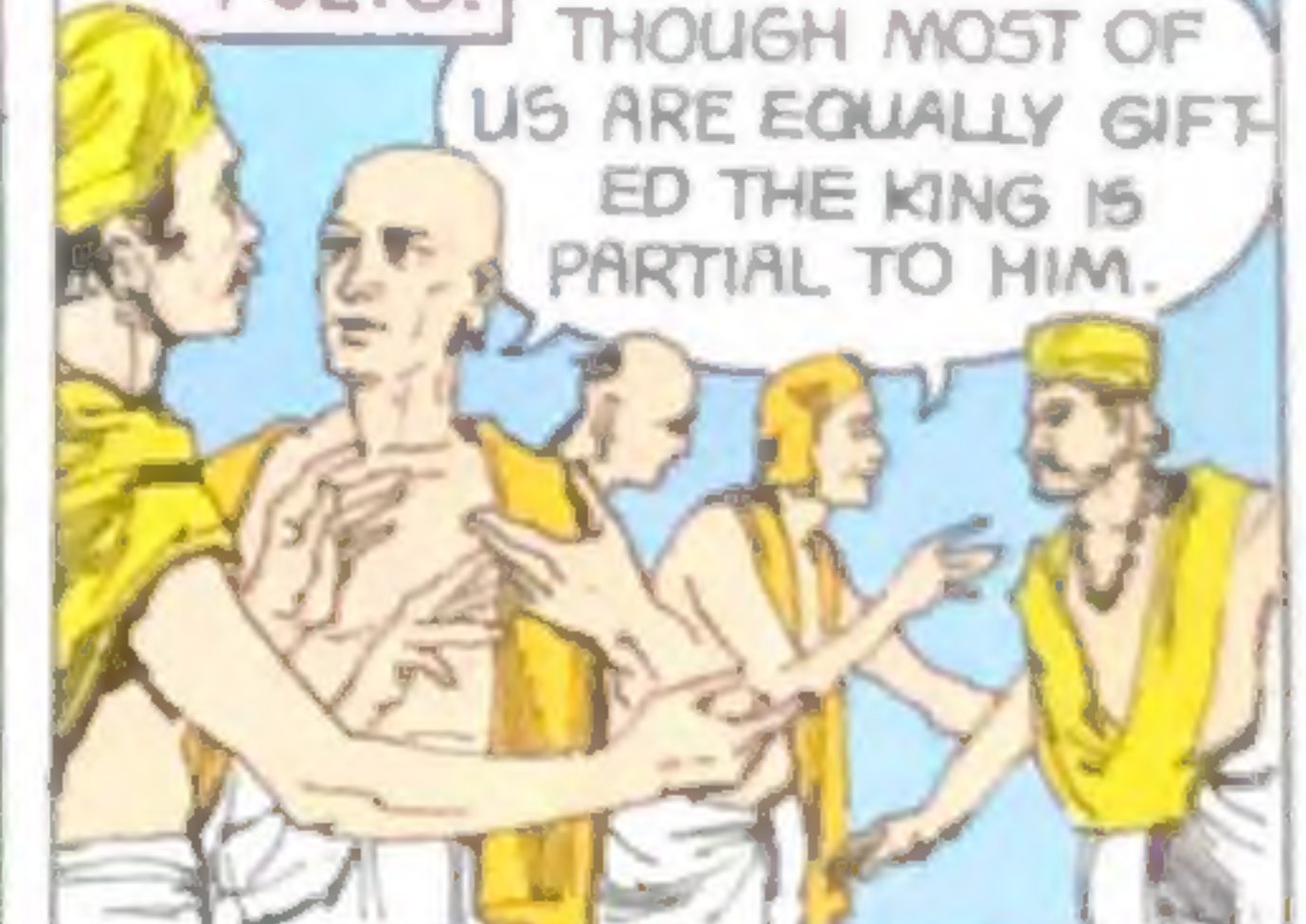


FRIEND, DESCRIBE THE TWILIGHT.

SO BEAUTIFUL WAS KALIDASA'S DESCRIPTION THAT RAJA BHOJA TOOK AN IMMEDIATE LIKING TO HIM AND A DEEP FRIENDSHIP WAS BORN BETWEEN THEM.



THIS UNFORTUNATELY AROUSED THE JEALOUSY OF THE OTHER POETS.



THOUGH MOST OF US ARE EQUALLY GIFTED THE KING IS PARTIAL TO HIM.

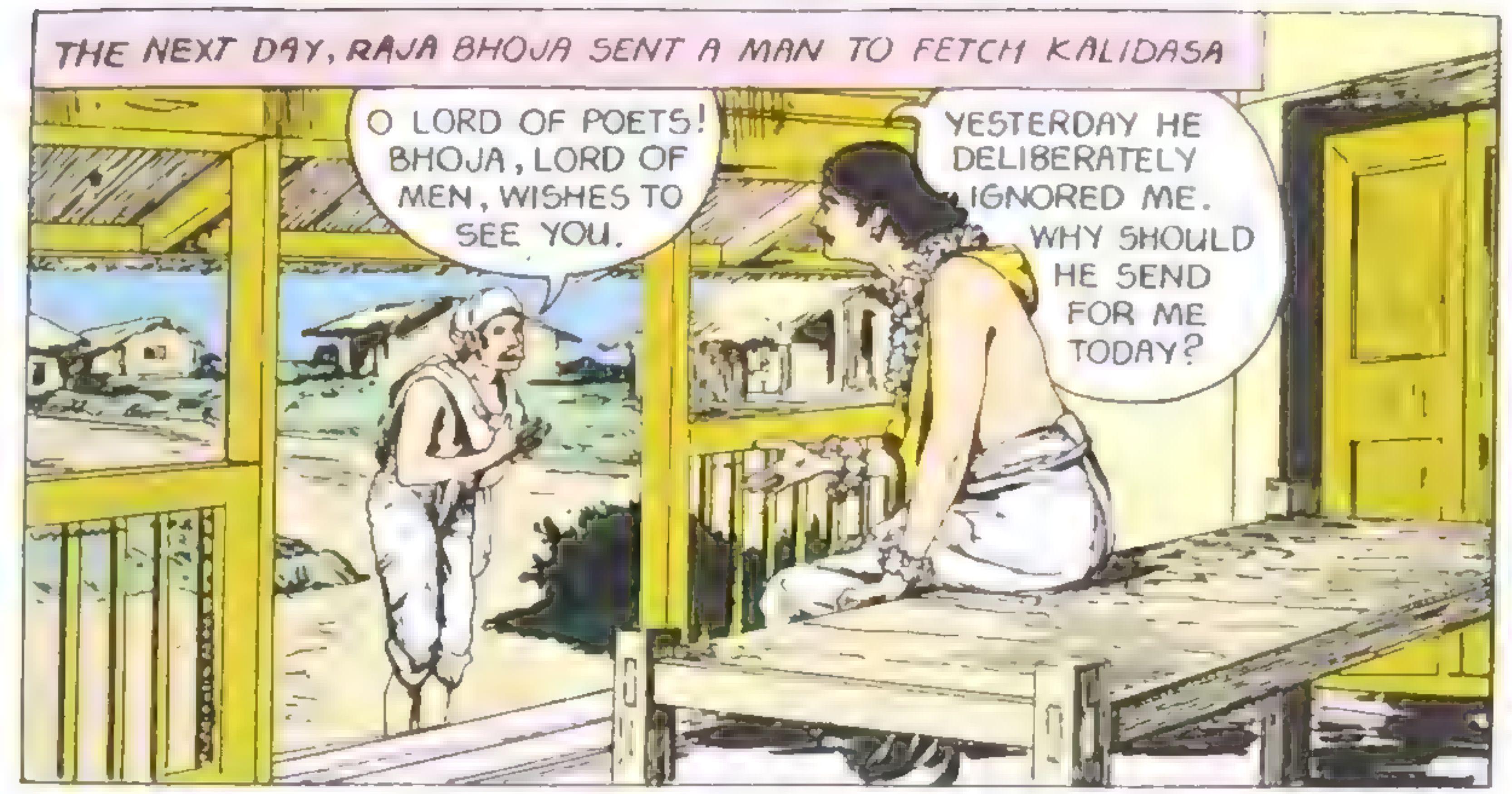
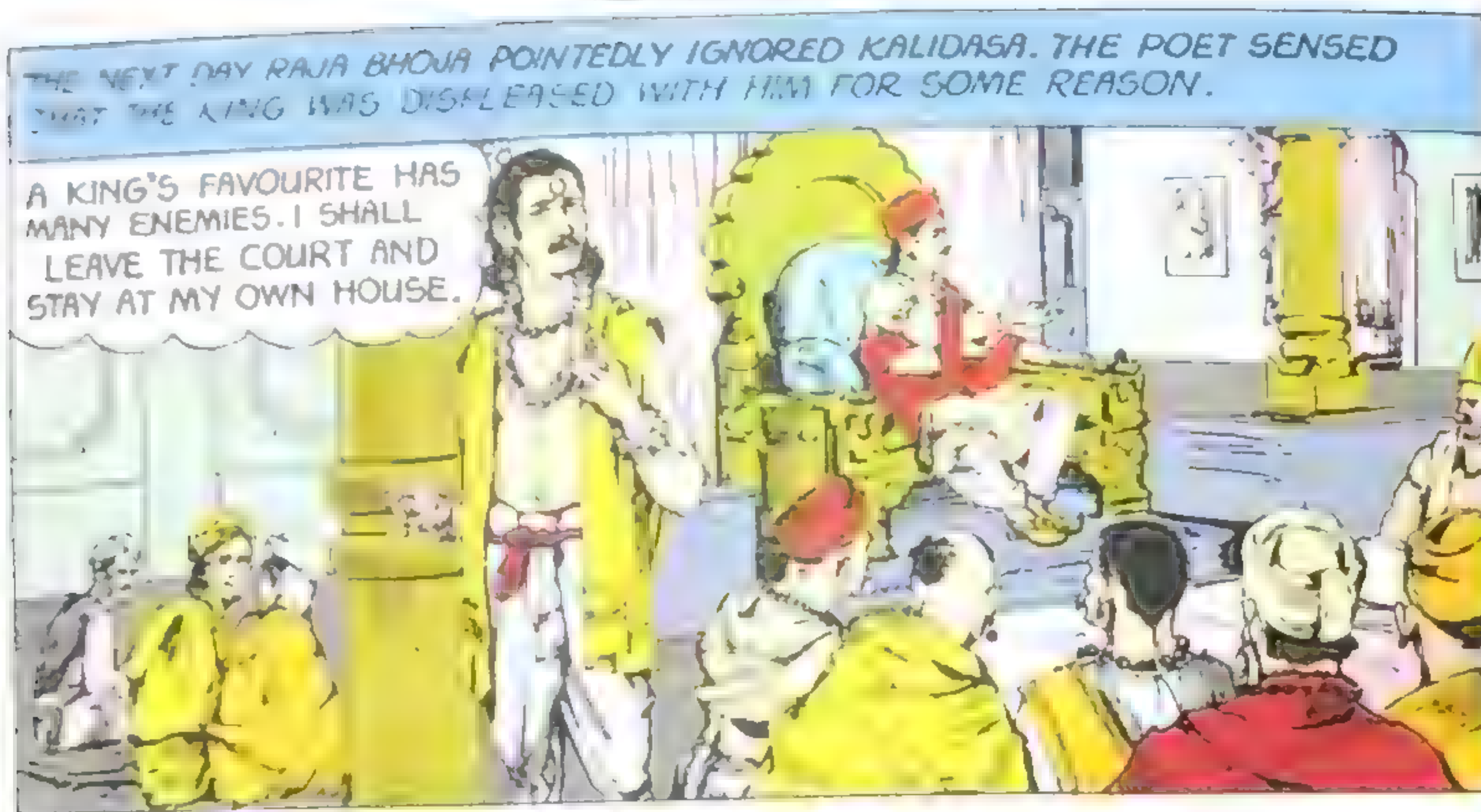
THEY DELIBERATELY SPREAD RUMOURS ABOUT KALIDASA'S CHARACTER AND POISONED THE KING'S MIND.



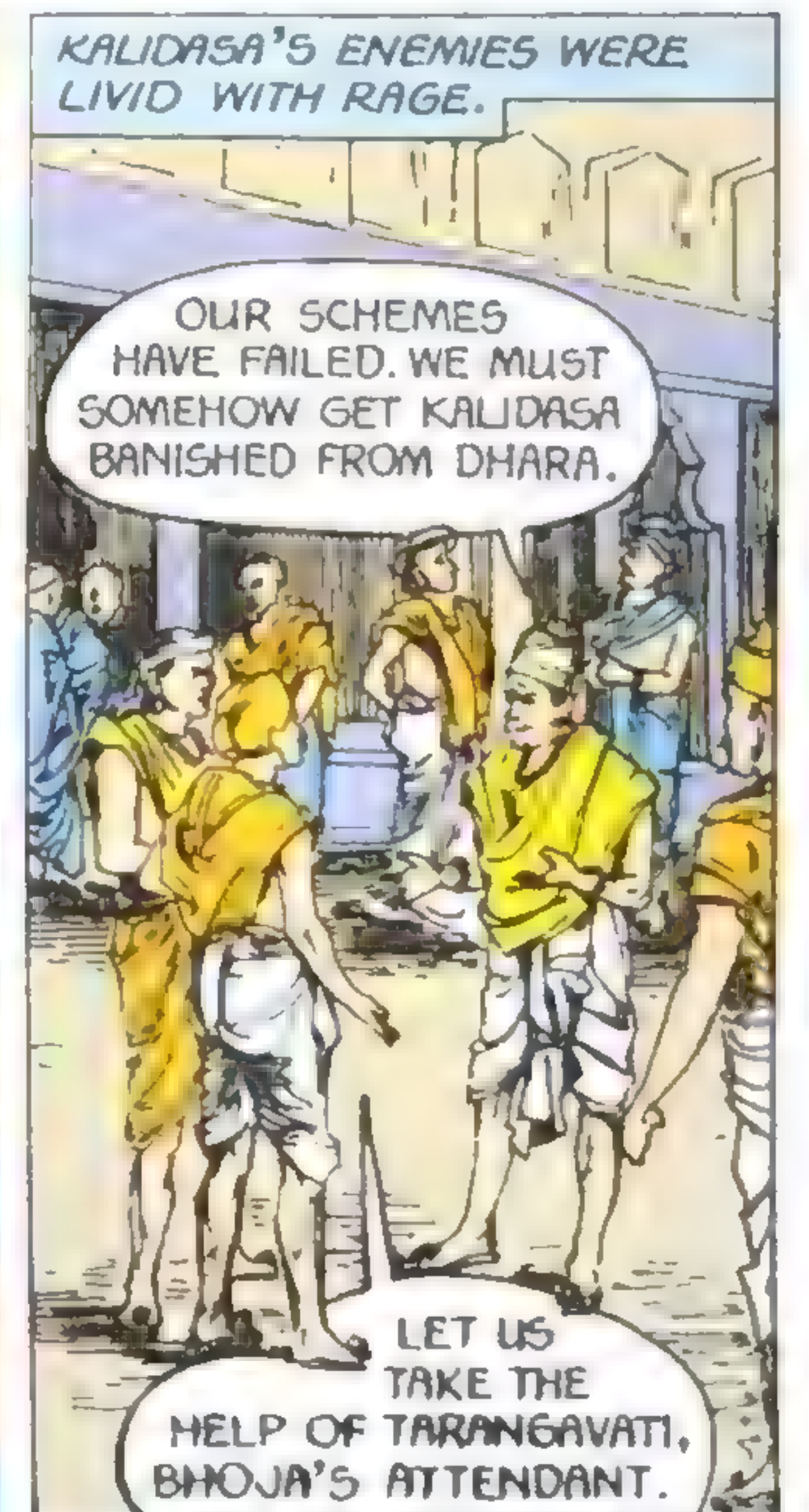
WHERE IS KALIDASA? I DO NOT SEE HIM AT COURT.

EVEN THE MOST LEARNED CANNOT ESCAPE THE LURE OF COURT DANCERS.

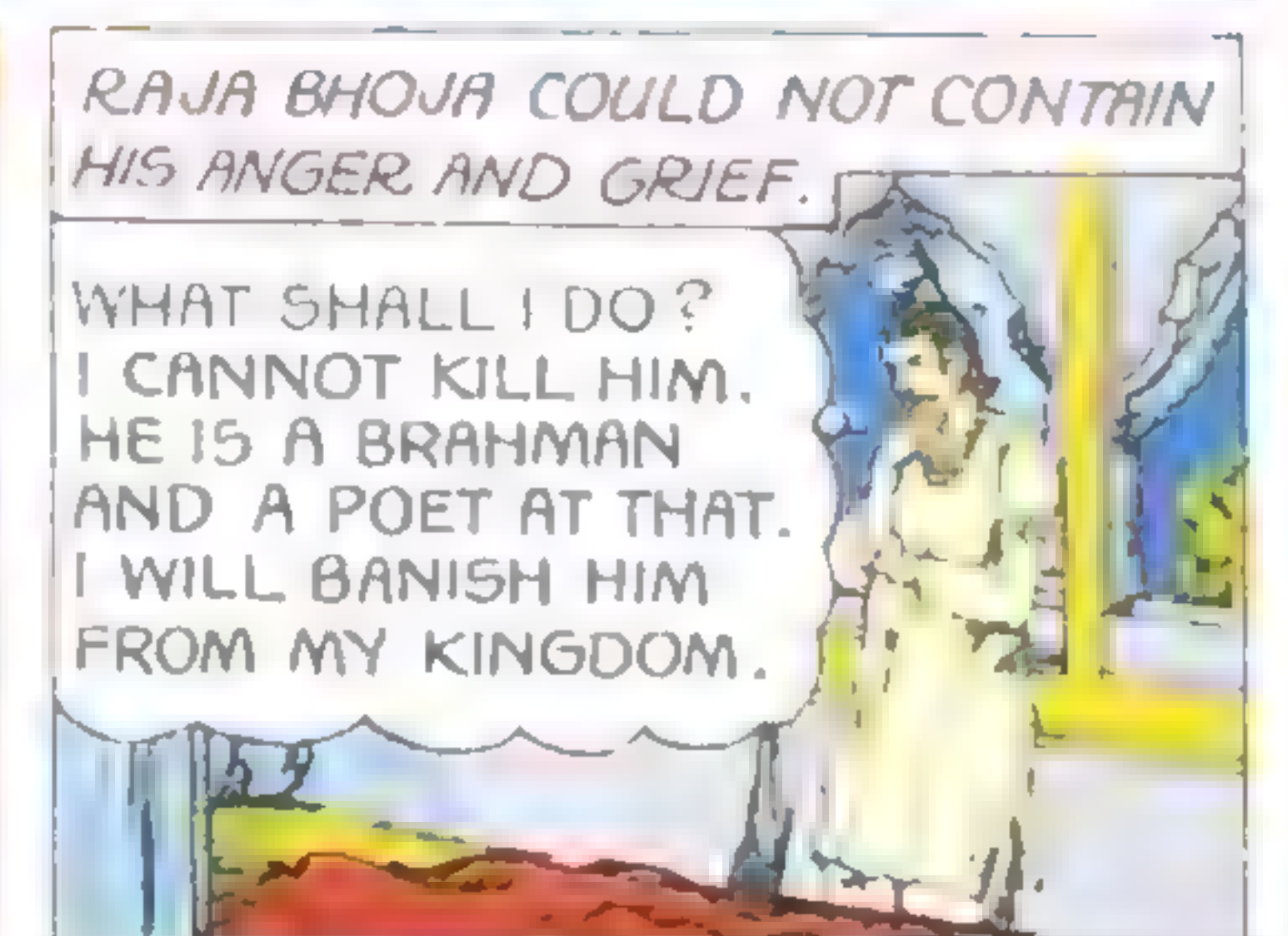
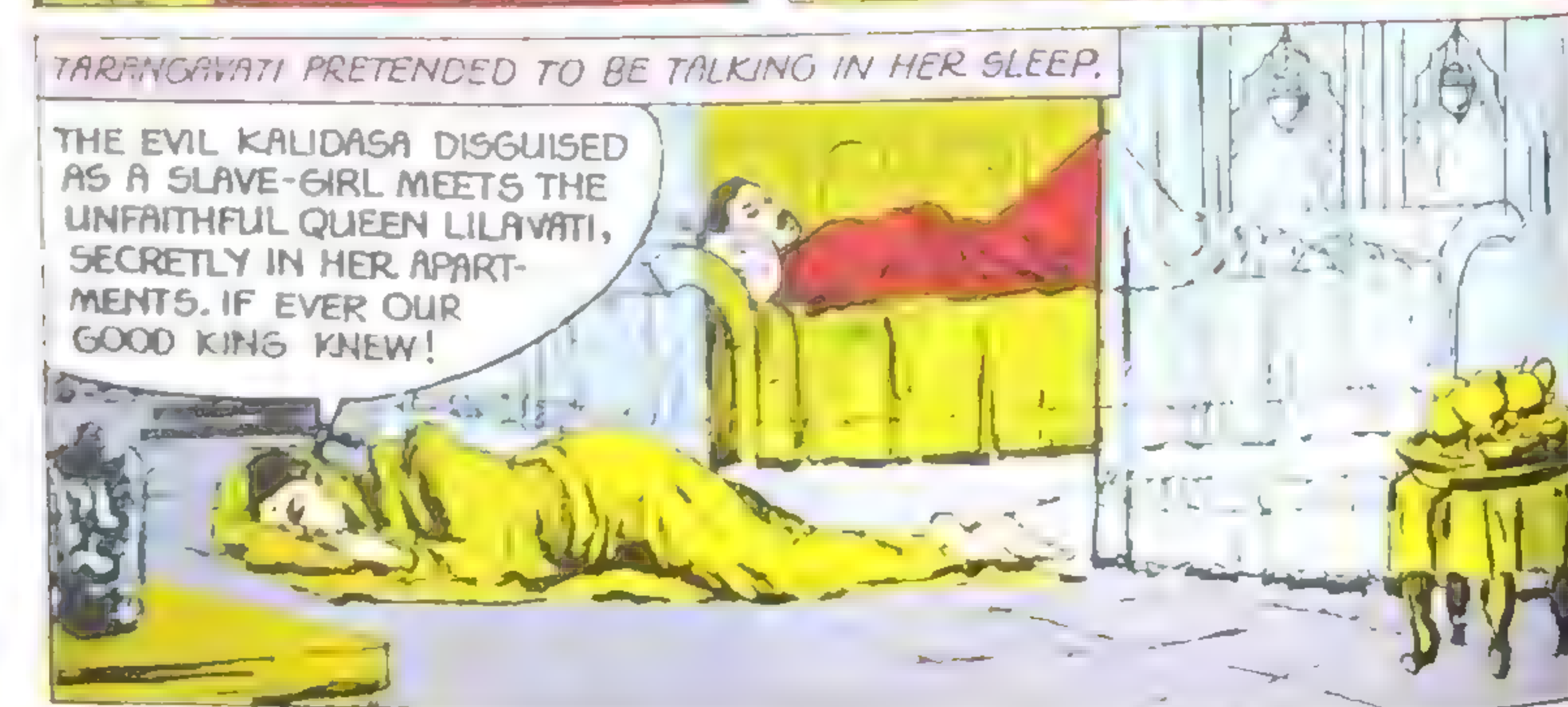




BUT ALL THE SAME KALIDASA WENT TO THE COURT.



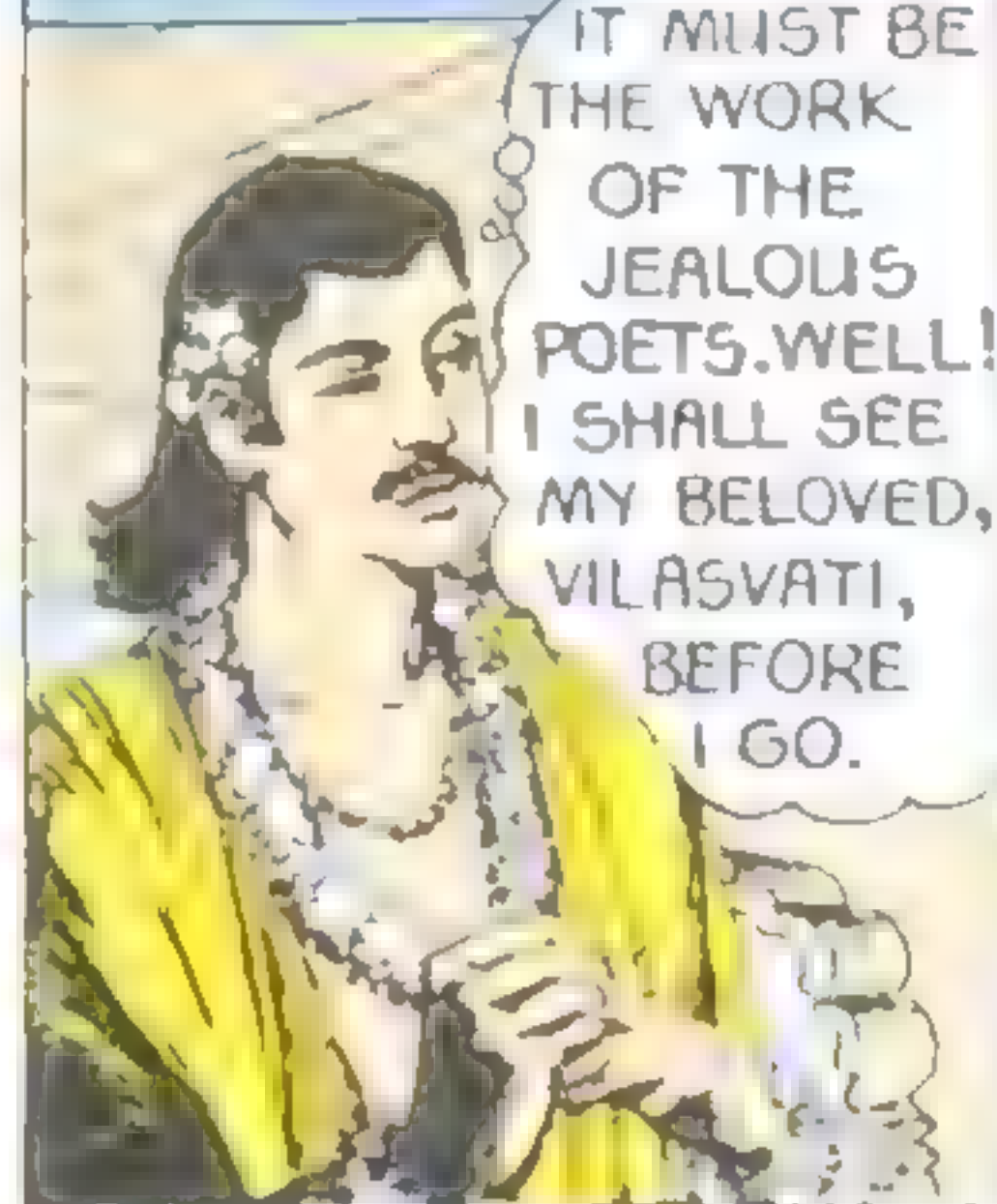






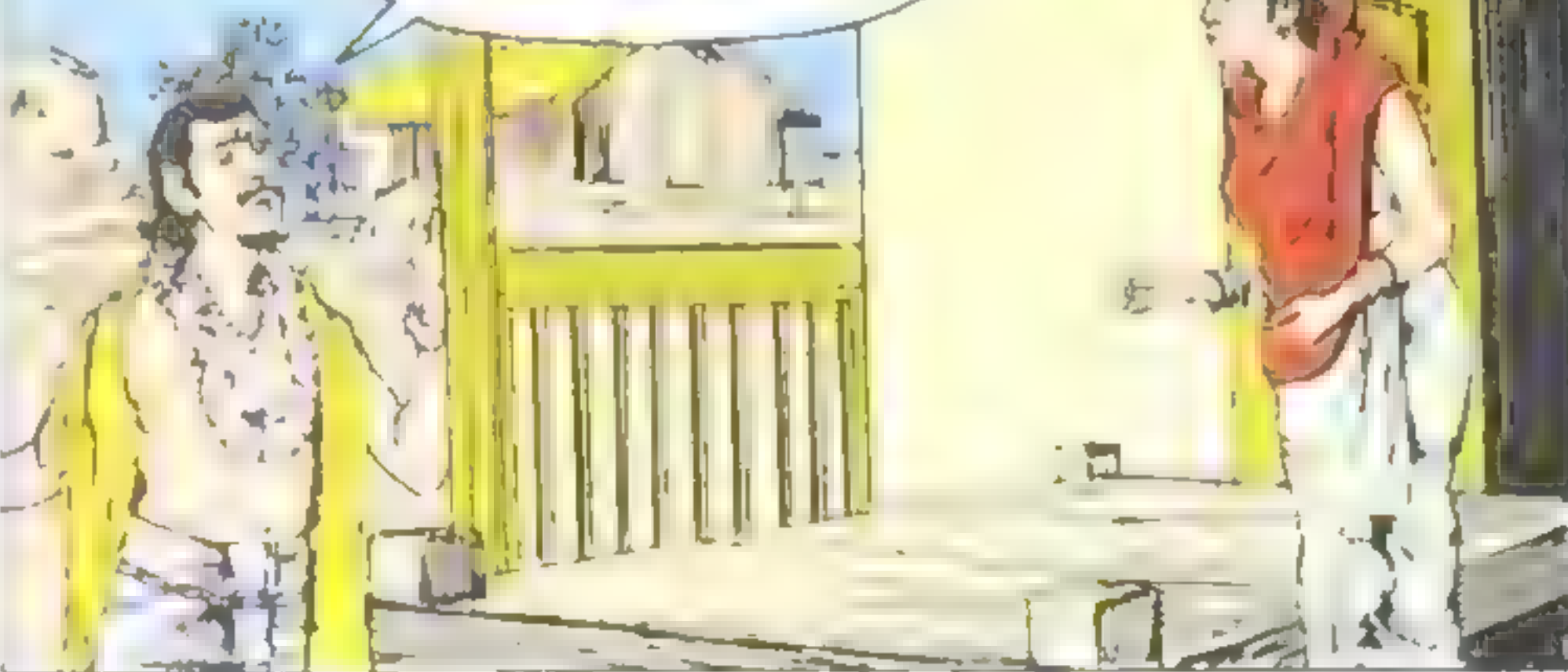
KALIDASA WAS HURT AND PUZZLED

IT MUST BE THE WORK OF THE JEALOUS POETS. WELL! I SHALL SEE MY BELOVED, VILASVATI, BEFORE I GO.



AT VILASVATI'S HOME—

DEAREST ONE, THE KING HAS BANISHED ME. I HAVE COME TO TAKE LEAVE OF YOU.



BUT VILASVATI WOULD NOT LET HIM GO.

I AM YOUR FRIEND. WHEN YOU WERE THE KING'S FAVOURITE, I SHARED YOUR HAPPINESS. NOW THAT YOU ARE FALLEN FROM FAVOUR, I WILL NOT LET IT GO.



AS LONG AS I AM ALIVE, YOU CAN LIVE SAFELY AND IN COMFORT IN A SECRET CELLAR IN MY HOUSE.



SO KALIDASA LIVED IN THE HOUSE OF VILASVATI.

MEANWHILE, LILAVATI HEARD OF KALIDASA'S BANISHMENT—



DEAR LORD, WHY DID YOU BANISH THE JEWEL OF YOUR COURT?

THE KING TOLD HER WHY. THEN—



... I SPARED YOUR LIFE OUT OF KINDNESS.

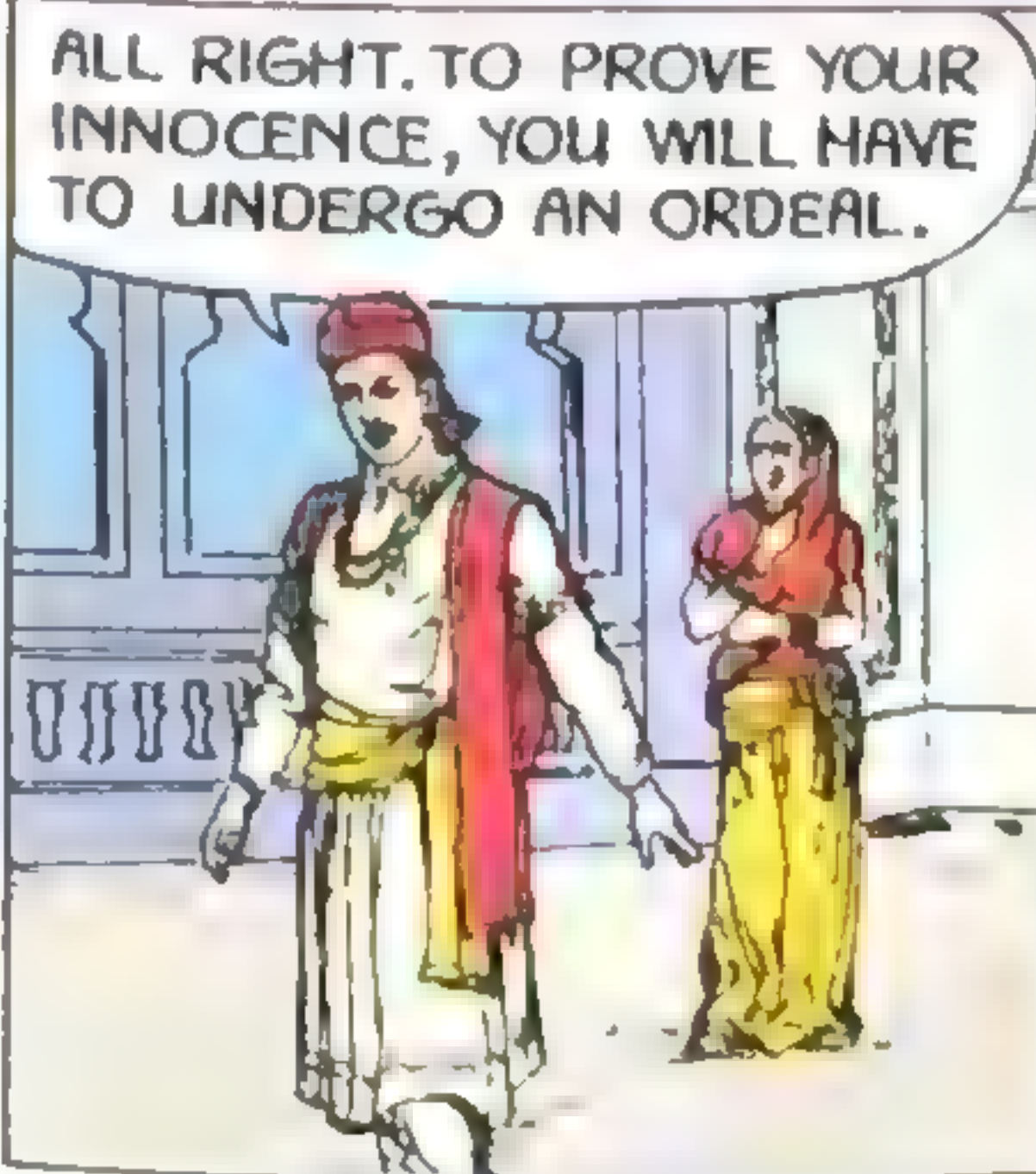
THE QUEEN LAUGHED SARCASTICALLY.

I AM INDEED FORTUNATE. IN ANY CASE I AM GOING TO KILL MYSELF, SINCE YOU HAVE NOT CARED TO FIND OUT WHETHER I AM GUILTY OR NOT.



RAJA BHOJA RELENDED.

ALL RIGHT. TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE, YOU WILL HAVE TO UNDERGO AN ORDEAL.



THE QUEEN, OF COURSE, CAME OUT UNSCATHED.

DEAR QUEEN, FORGIVE ME. MOST EVIL ONE THAT I AM!





RAJA BHOJA NOW REPENTED FOR HIS UNJUST TREATMENT OF KALIDASA.

THERE IS NO POET LIKE KALIDASA. HIS WORDS OPEN UP MAGIC CASEMENTS ON WONDER AND BEAUTY. IN WHOSE FORTUNATE COMPANY ARE YOU, KALIDASA?



DAYS PASSED BUT THERE WAS NO NEWS OF KALIDASA. THEN ONE MORNING AT COURT, BHOJA HAD A BRILLIANT IDEA.

HONOURED POETS, COMPLETE THIS STANZA. IF YOU CANNOT, I SHALL BANISH YOU FROM THE LAND.



AND AFTER HE HAD GIVEN THEM THE INITIAL LINES —

AH! KALIDASA, BY THIS RUSE YOU SHALL EITHER BE VINDICATED OR DISCOVERED.



THE POETS TRIED DESPERATELY TO COMPLETE THE STANZA, BUT IN VAIN. AT LAST —

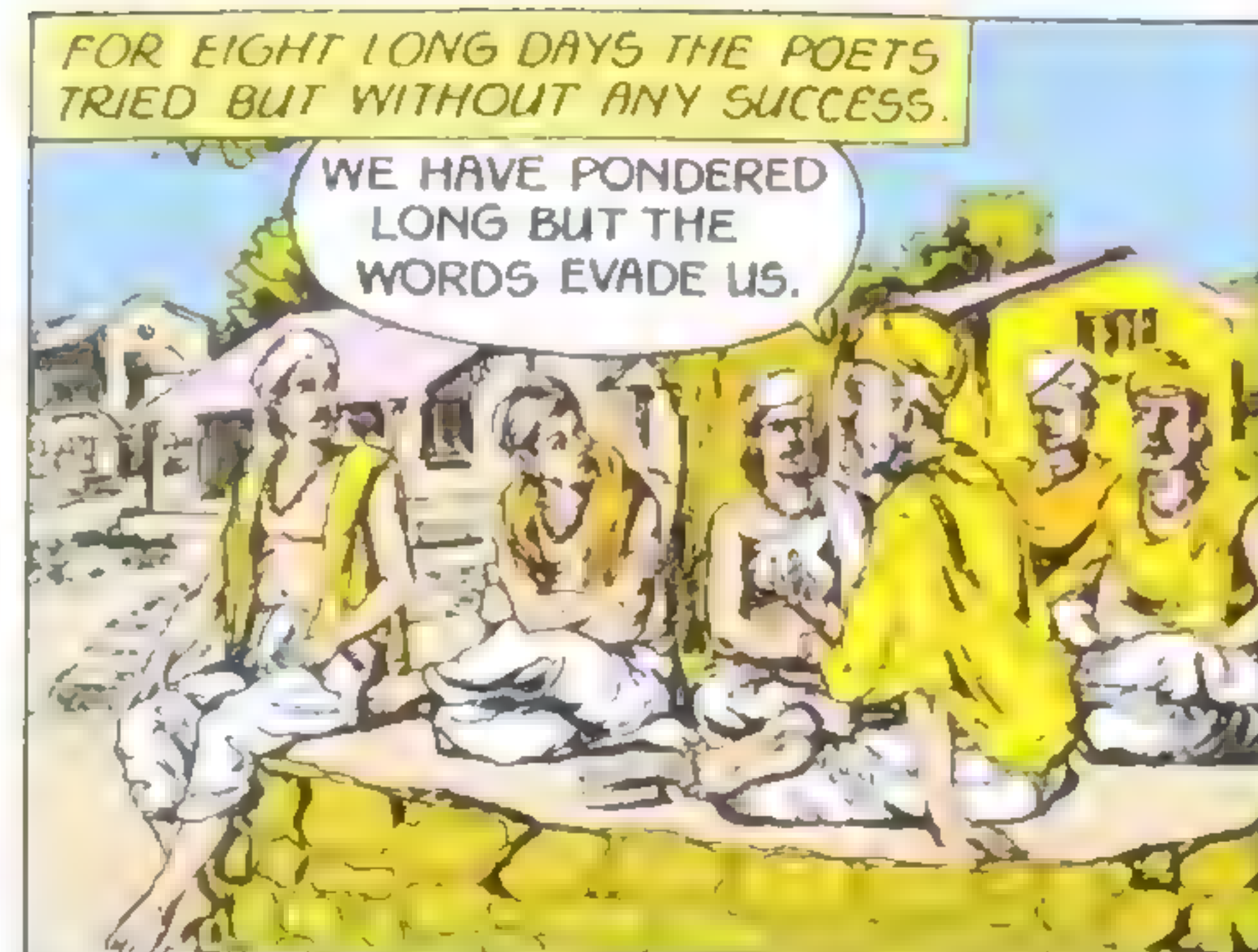
BANA, YOU ARE BHOJA'S FAVOURITE. GO TO HIM AND ASK FOR EIGHT DAYS' TIME.

I WILL.



FOR EIGHT LONG DAYS THE POETS TRIED BUT WITHOUT ANY SUCCESS.

WE HAVE PONDERED LONG BUT THE WORDS EVADE US.



BANA WAS THE FIRST TO ADMIT THEIR FOLLY IN GETTING KALIDASA BANISHED.

IF HE WERE HERE, WOULD WE BE IN THIS PLIGHT?



GRADUALLY THE OTHER POETS TOO HAD TO AGREE.

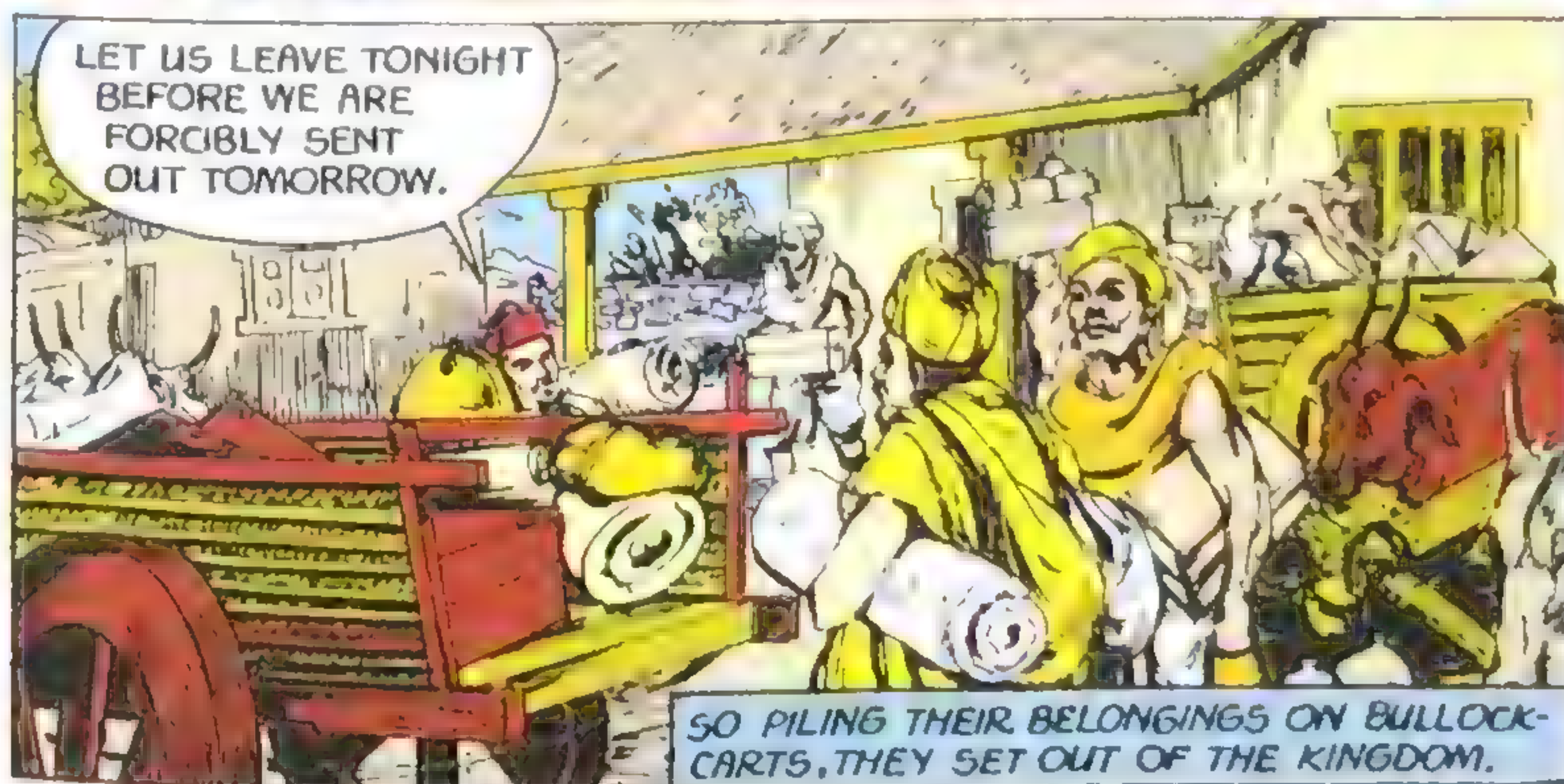
BEYOND A DOUBT NOT ONE OF US CAN COMPLETE THE STANZA.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY.

WE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THE LAND.



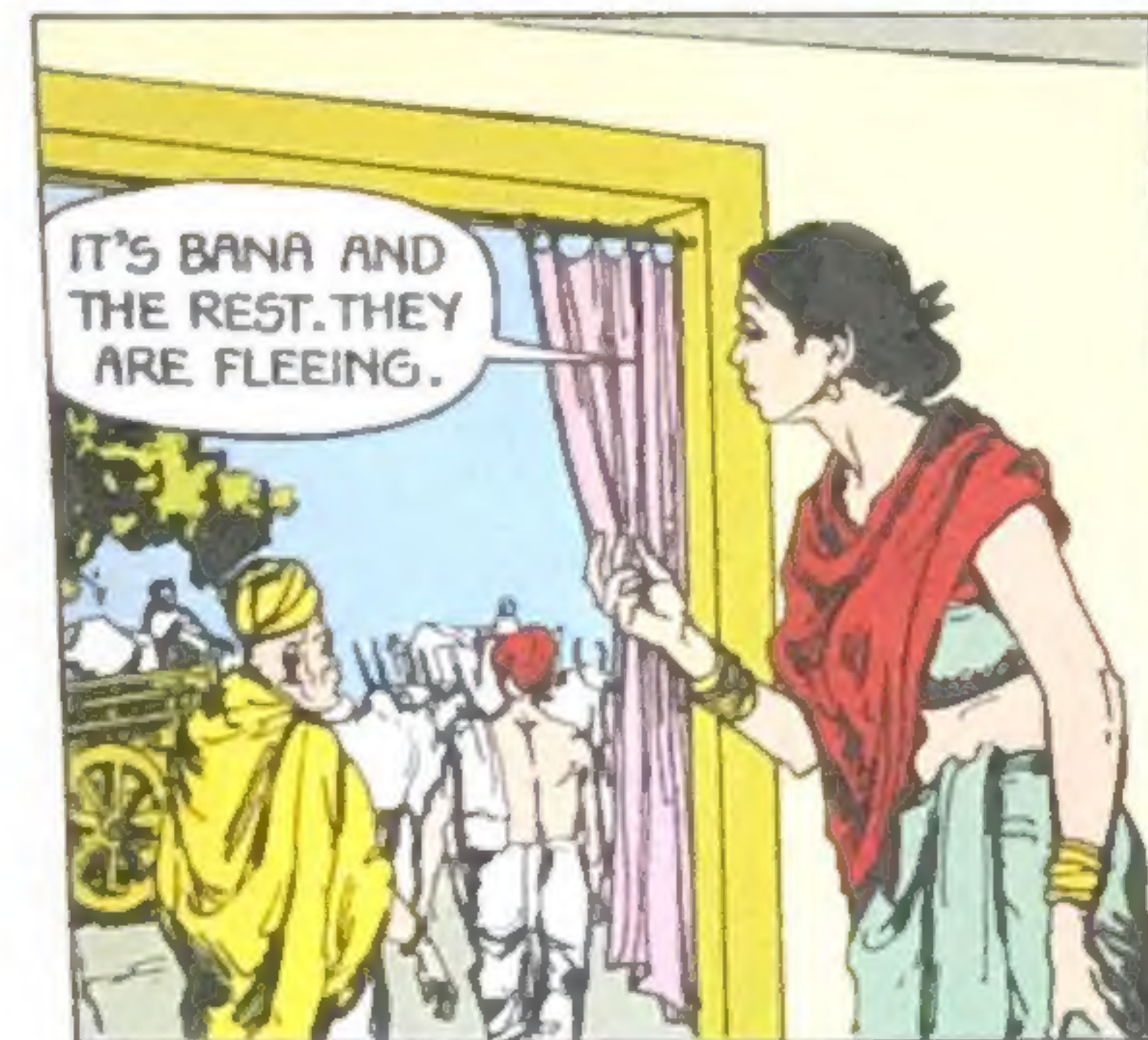
LET US LEAVE TONIGHT BEFORE WE ARE FORCIBLY SENT OUT TOMORROW.



SO PILING THEIR BELONGINGS ON BULLOCK-CARTS, THEY SET OUT OF THE KINGDOM.



AS THEY WENT DOWN THE ROAD, THEY HAD TO PASS VILASVATI'S HOUSE. KALIDASA HEARD THEIR VOICES.



WEARING THE DISGUISE OF A BARD, KALIDASA WENT TOWARDS THEM.



ONE AMONG THEM, GUESSING THAT HE WAS A BARD, HAD AN IDEA.

THE KING GAVE US A STANZA TO COMPLETE. WE COULD NOT DO IT. AFRAID OF THE KING'S WRATH, WE HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE KINGDOM.



WHEN THE POETS GAVE THE LINES, KALIDASA EFFORTLESSLY COMPLETED THE STANZA AND TOOK LEAVE OF THE ASTOUNDED POETS.



THE MORE PRACTICAL POETS PLANNED THEIR NEXT MOVE—





EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE POETS LED BY BANA WENT TO THE COURT.



AS SOON AS BANA, THE LEADER, FINISHED RECITING THE STANZA—



BHOJA GAVE BANA A REWARD, DELIBERATELY IGNORING THE OTHERS.

I AM PLEASED WITH YOU, BANA. YOUR REWARD SHALL BE 15 LAKH GOLD PIECES.



AS SOON AS BANA LEFT THE COURT WITH THE REWARD, THE REMAINING POETS WHISPERED AMONGST THEMSELVES.



AND THEY TOLD BHOJA ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT.

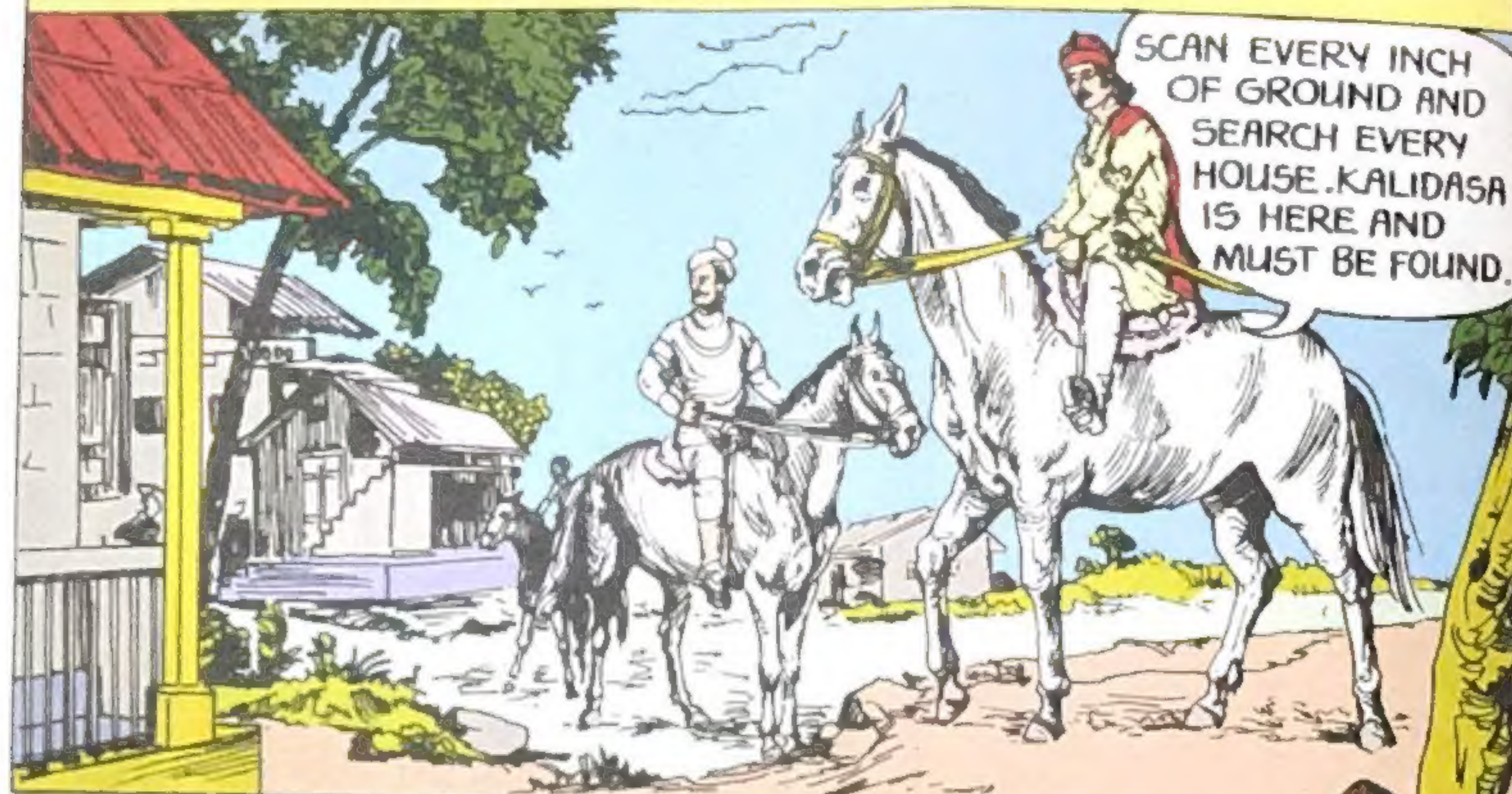


BHOJA TURNED TO HIS GUARDS.





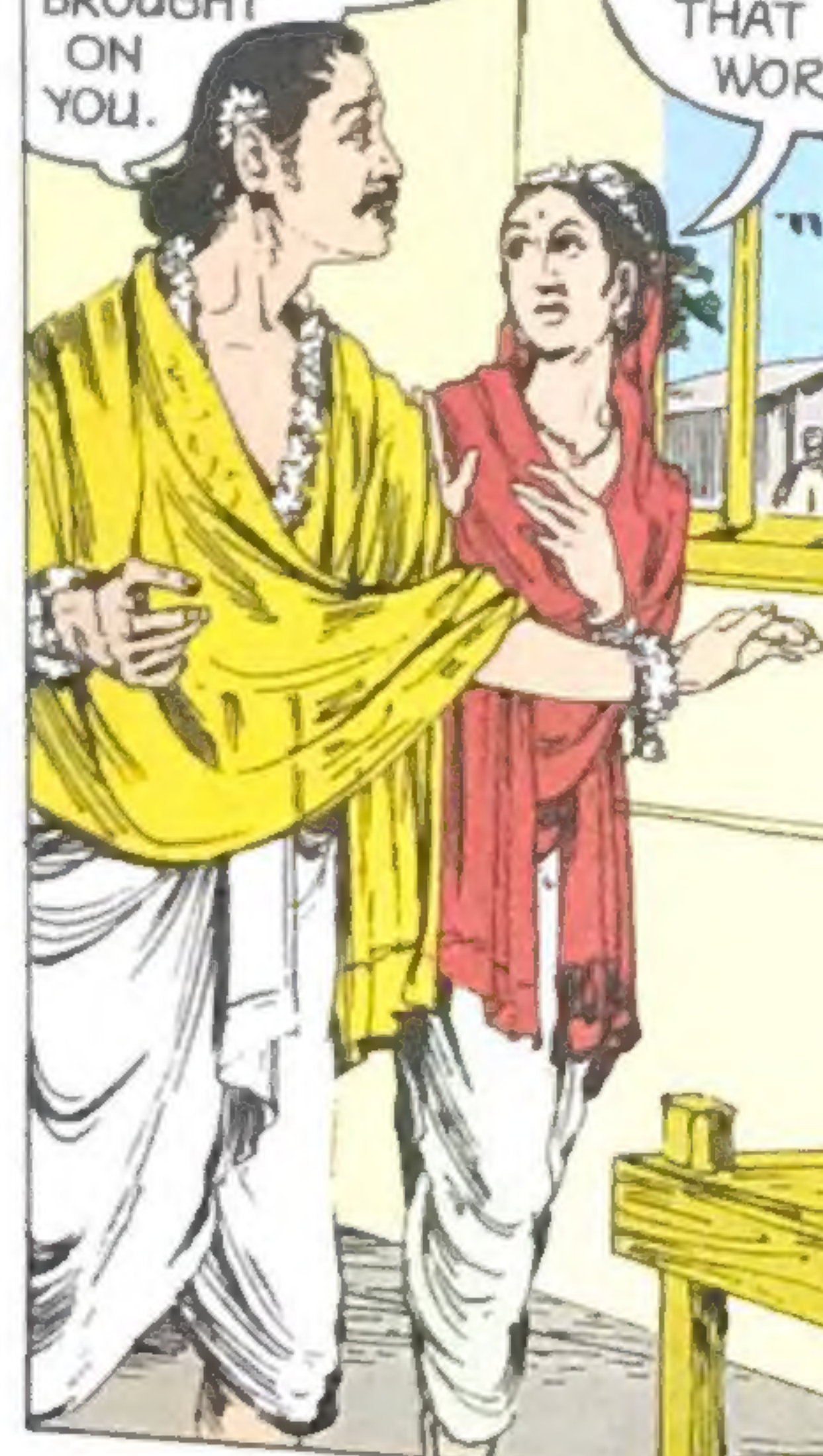
BHOJA RODE TO THE SPOT WHERE THE POETS HAD MET THE BARD.



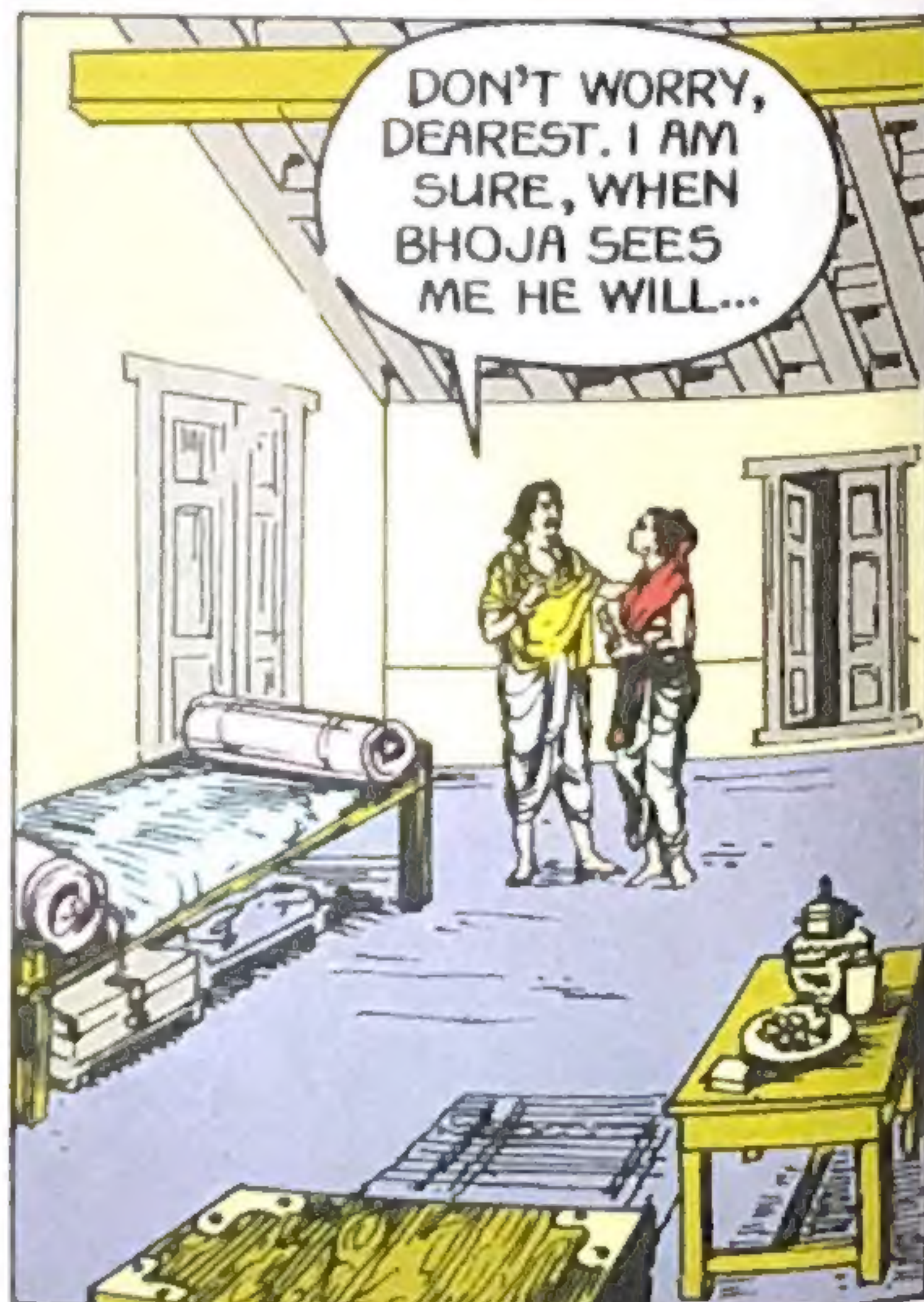
MEANWHILE AT VILASVATI'S HOUSE—

ALAS! THE KING AND HIS MEN! SEE THE TROUBLE I HAVE BROUGHT ON YOU.

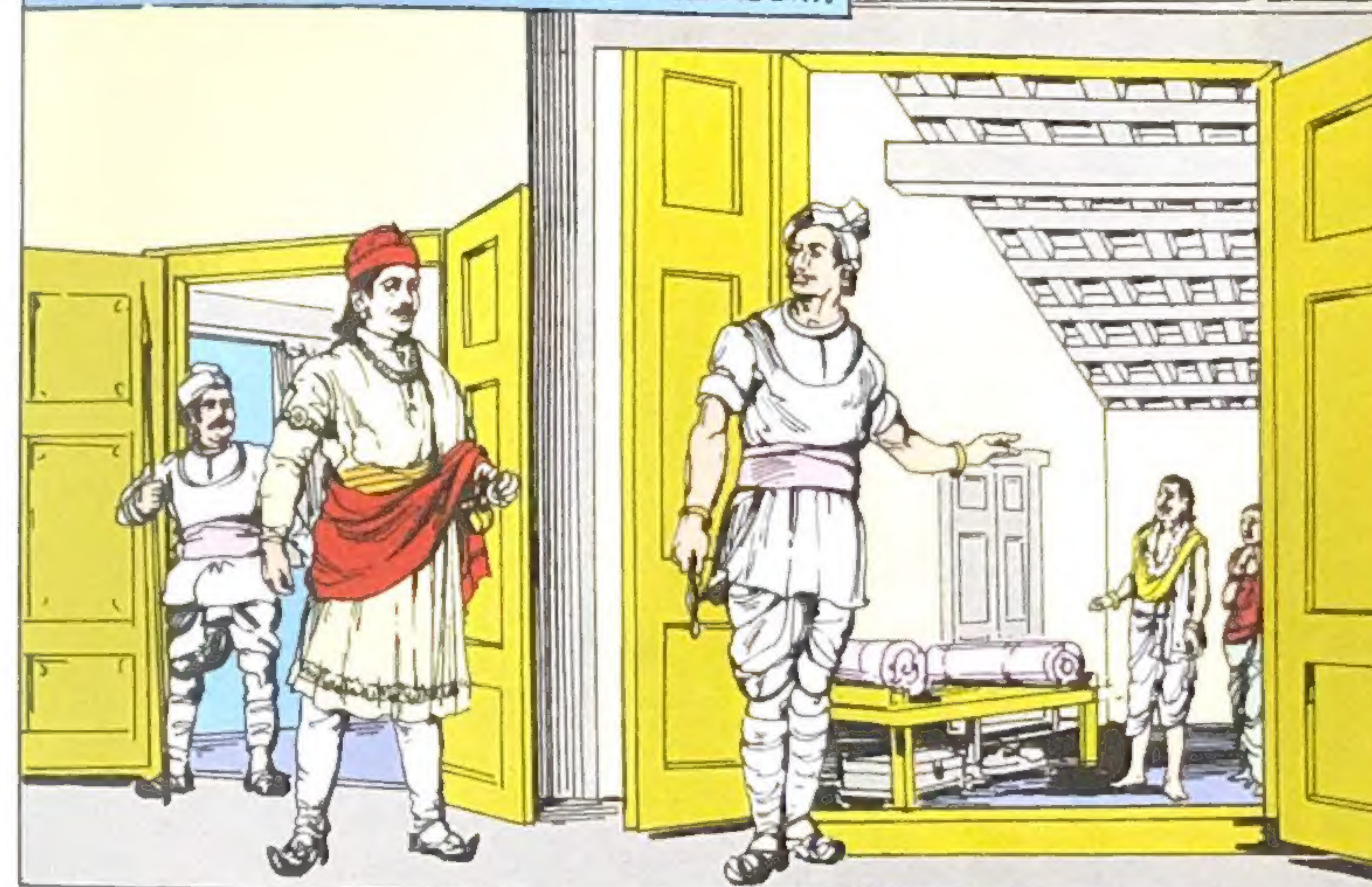
IT IS NOT SO MUCH ABOUT ME AS ABOUT YOU THAT I AM WORRIED.



DON'T WORRY, DEAREST. I AM SURE, WHEN BHOJA SEES ME HE WILL...



AT THAT MOMENT BHOJA ENTERED THE ROOM.







AND BHOJA, EVER MAGNANIMOUS, OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT KALIDASA HAD DISOBEYED ROYAL ORDERS. HE REINSTATED THE POET AT COURT IN HIS FORMER PLACE OF PRIDE — SO GREAT A LOVER OF POETRY HAD HE BECOME.

# TINKLE

Tinkle is easily the most-loved English comic brand in the country. It provides a perfect mix of entertainment, science and general knowledge to all its readers. It is enthusiastically read and enjoyed by children and adults alike.



**Tinkle Magazine (Monthly)\***

**Tinkle Digest (Monthly)\***

\*Also available as Annual Subscription.

**Tinkle Double Digest (Monthly)**

**Tinkle Holiday Special (Biannual)**

**Tinkle Digest**

Tinkle Digest Vol. 1 to 225

**Tinkle Double Digest**

Tinkle Double Digest Vol. 1 to 118

**Tinkle Collections**

Tinkle Tall Tales - Shikari Shambu

Tinkle Tall Tales - Butterfingers

Tinkle Tall Tales - Defective Detective

The Adventures of Suppandi - 1

The Adventures of Suppandi - 2

Suppandi - 3 The Laughter Never Ends

The Adventures of Shikari Shambu

Shikari Shambu's escapades

Shikari Shambu - 3 To the Rescue

Adventures of Little Shambu

Tantri The Mantri - 2

Tantri The Mantri - 3

Tantri The Mantri - 4 Game of a Throne

Beware It's The Defective Detectives!

Ooops... It's Butterfingers

Butterfingers - 2 Goes Bonkers

The Adventures of Kalia

Ina Mina Mynah Mo

Mopes And Purr

Nasruddin Hodja - Rides Again

Pyarelal

Comics Genius - Ram Waeerkar

Folktales of Africa

Folktales of China

Folktales of Europe



Folktales of Japan

Folktales of South India

Folktales From Central Asia

Tales From The Americas

Tales of Adventure & Mystery

Tales of Magic and Fantasy

Tinkle Animals and Birds Collection:

Wild n Wonderful

Discoveries And Inventions

**Tinkle Packs**

Best of Tinkle Digests (Pack of 10)

Best of Tinkle Double Digests (Pack of 5)

Tinkle Special Collection- Vol 1 (Pack of 3 collections)

Tinkle Special Collection- Vol 2 (Pack of 3 collections)

Tinkle Special Collection- Vol 3 (Pack of 3 collections)

Superstars of Tinkle (Pack of 17 collections)

My Favourite Tinkle Heroes- 1 (Pack of 6 collections)

My Favourite Tinkle Heroes- 2 (Pack of 6 collections)

Folktales from Around the World (Pack of 9)

Tinkle 600 Collection

Tinkle Character Collection

**Tinkle Special Digest (Hindi)**

Tinkle Special Digest Vol. 1 to 16

**Tinkle Sangrah (Hindi)**

Shikari Shambhu Ke Kamame

Tantri Mantri Ke Shadyantra

Kisse Suppandi Ke

Albela Suppandi



For trade enquiry contact respective sales offices OR email: [sales@ack-media.com](mailto:sales@ack-media.com)  
ACK Media, 201 & 202, Sumer Plaza, 2nd Floor, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400 059.  
Phone: 91-22-6629 6998/6999 Web: [www.ack-media.com](http://www.ack-media.com)